DETROIT METRO TIMES
VOL. 46 | ISSUE 08 | FEBRUARY 4-17, 2026

LUST

DITA VON TEESE

AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE

PHOTOGRAPHER CHAS RAY KRIDER OPENS HIS ARCHIVES FOR THE DIRTY SHOW

BY LEE DEVITO

Issue

BOWLERO Lanes & Lounge

FEBRUARY
NO COVER EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
sunday karaoke WITH MATT THE MILLIONAIRE	CLOSED	**tuesday karaoke** WITH MATT THE MILLIONAIRE	04	05 FIRST THURSDAYS **J. MICHAEL & THE HEAVY BURDEN**	06 **DETROIT RIDDIM CREW** THE LOYAL DJ TANGENT	07 **EASTSIDE STILL ALIVE** LIVE BAND KARAOKE
08	09 CLOSED	10	11 **CLASSIC LOUNGE SOUNDS** WITH KESHTKAR & CO.	12	13 **WARHORSES** CHERRY DROP DJ SANFORD	14 **CLEAR FIELDS** DJ SOULFUL DREAMS
15	16 CLOSED	17	18	19 **POP CULTURE TRIVIA NIGHT** WITH SCOTT ZUMBERG	20 **DEATH CAT** CHOKING SUSAN DJ NITROH	21 **THE REEFERMEN** DJ SOVAIN SYLVAIN
22	23 CLOSED	24	25 **CLASSIC LOUNGE SOUNDS** WITH KESHTKAR & CO.	26	27 **MEGA WEEDGE** DJ ZAK FRIELING	28 **AMBROSIA BLUE** MILD PULP DJ RYAN GIMPERT

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& DJ T-CON

SAT MAR 7
MRKT
& DJ SHELLZ

FRI MAR 20
THE LOOSE KOOZIES
W/ THE CRAIG BROWN BAND
& DJ SOUL-LO

DIRTY SHOW 26

EROTIC ART EXPO

ON STAGE
1ST WEEKEND

SHIMMY LAROUX
P. NO NOIRE
HONEY BEE ROSE
FAGGEDY RANDY
DIRTY SHIRLEY
& POPPY NOIR
DUSTY BAHLS
MARGOT MANIFESTO
MIZON GARDE
DEEVA ROSE
LILLY RASCAL
SHELLEY LA'BELLE
ADA VICE
CHESTNUT & DOUBLEDOTS**
EVA LA FEVA
MILA LA MACHINA
JOSEPHINE SHAKER
MIMI SOUTHWEST
LEENA ALLURE
DEANGELA SHOW SHANNON*

*2/13, **2/14

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Dirty. Show

TICKETS ON SALE

ON STAGE
2ND WEEKEND

JESSABELLE THUNDER
FRANKIE FICTITIOUS
FAGGEDY RANDY
HONEY BEE ROSE
P. NO NOIRE
DIONYSIA
MILA LA MACHINA
LUSHES LAMOAN
SHELLEY LA'BELLE
LEENA ALLURE
AQUA TOFANA
JOSEPHINE SHAKER
BLEUE DEVEAUX*
MIZON GARDE
DIRTY SHIRLEY
& POPPY NOIR
ADA VICE
MIMI SOUTHWEST
CHESTNUT & DOUBLEDOTS**
EROS SEA
DEANGELA SHOW SHANNON*
JEEZ LOUEEZ-HOST

*2/20, **2/21

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Dita Von Teese photographed by Chas Ray Krider

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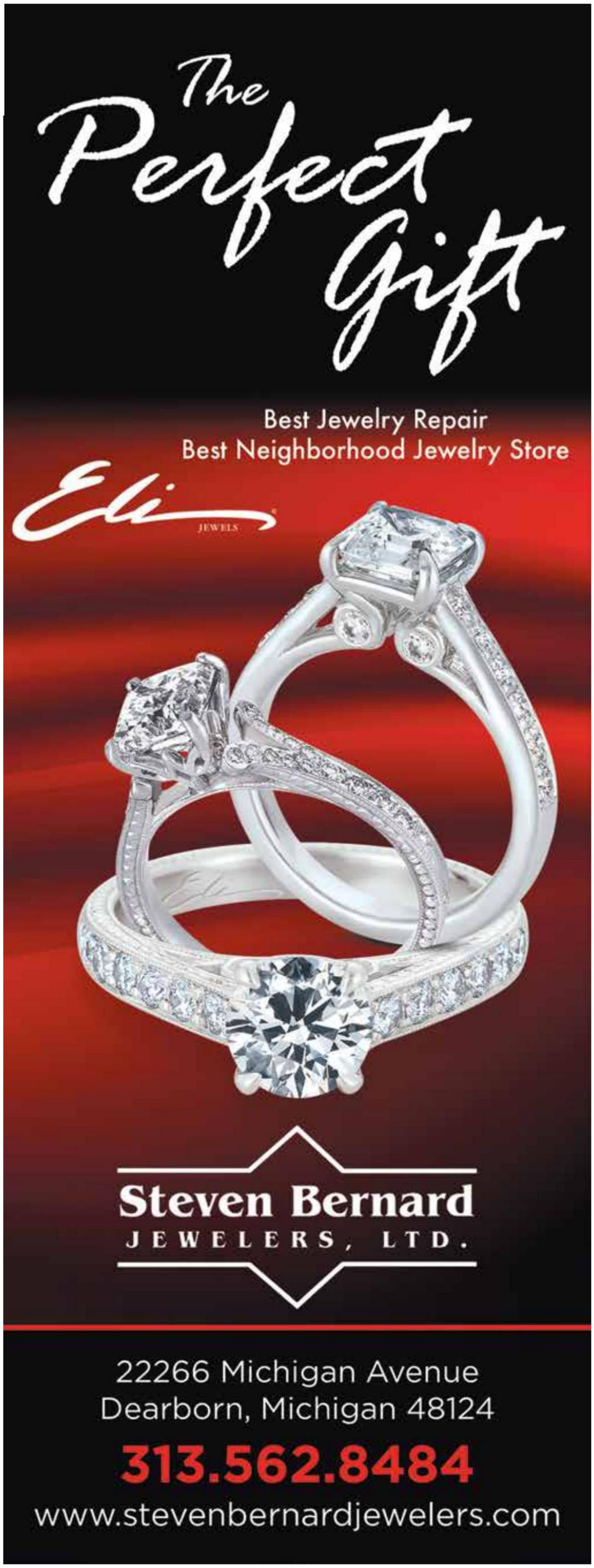

Detroit Opera

DIRECTOR **BRENNA CORNER**
CONDUCTOR **MARIT STRINDLUND**
MUSIC **POUL RUDERS**
LIBRETTO **PAUL BENTLEY**

THE HANDMAID'S TALE

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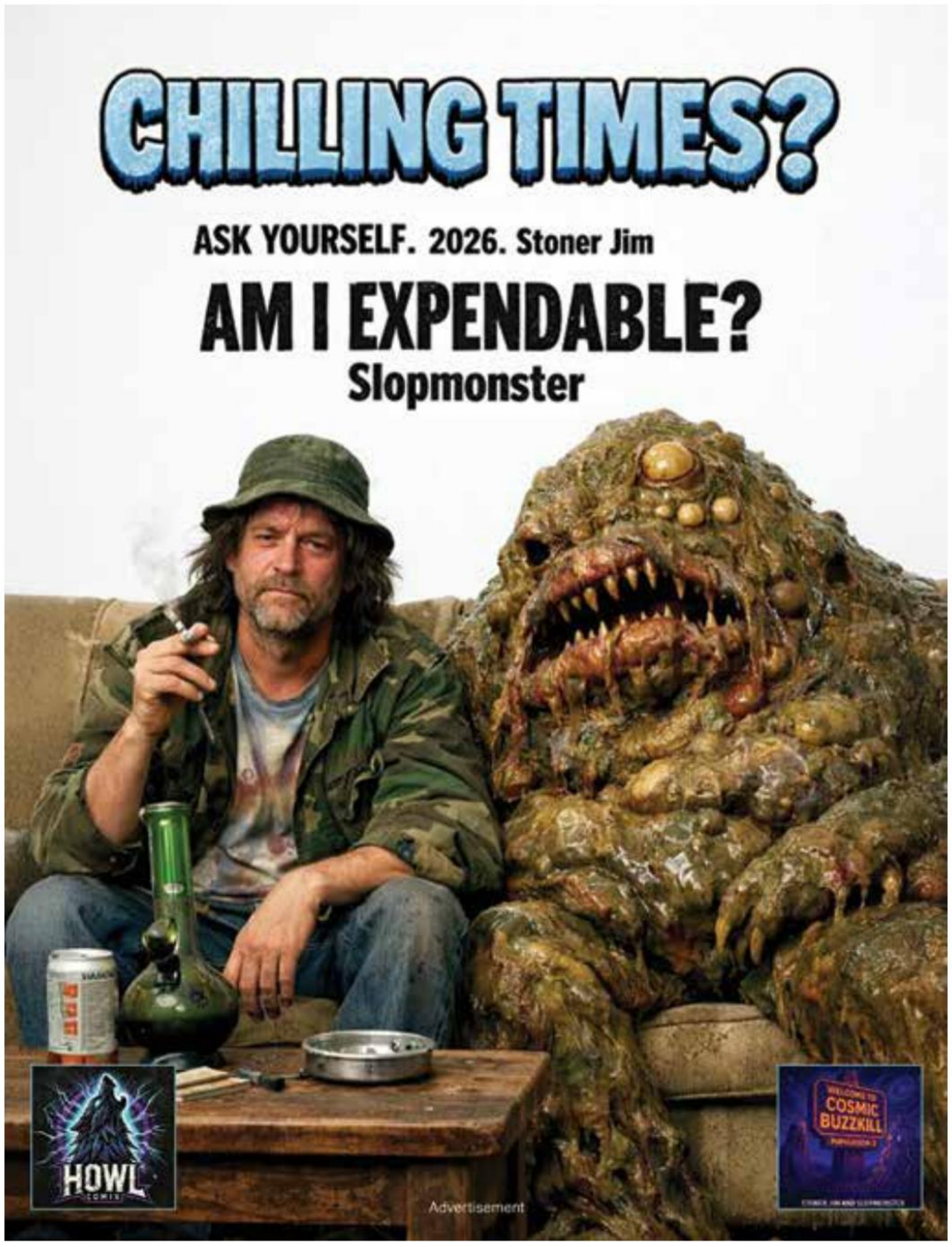


NEWS & VIEWS

Feedback

Readers react to George Clinton's "Symphonic PFunk: Celebrating the Music of Parliament Funkadelic" concert performed at the Detroit Opera House on Saturday.

Insane energy. Legendary evening.
—@travwright, Instagram

Wish I could have been there!
—@msbosslady50, Instagram

Yea I saw him a couple years ago, here in Atlanta. Amazing to see him still getting down at his age.
—@brianonrea, Instagram

Gawddamm, THAT was a great show!!!🔥
—@techafx, Instagram

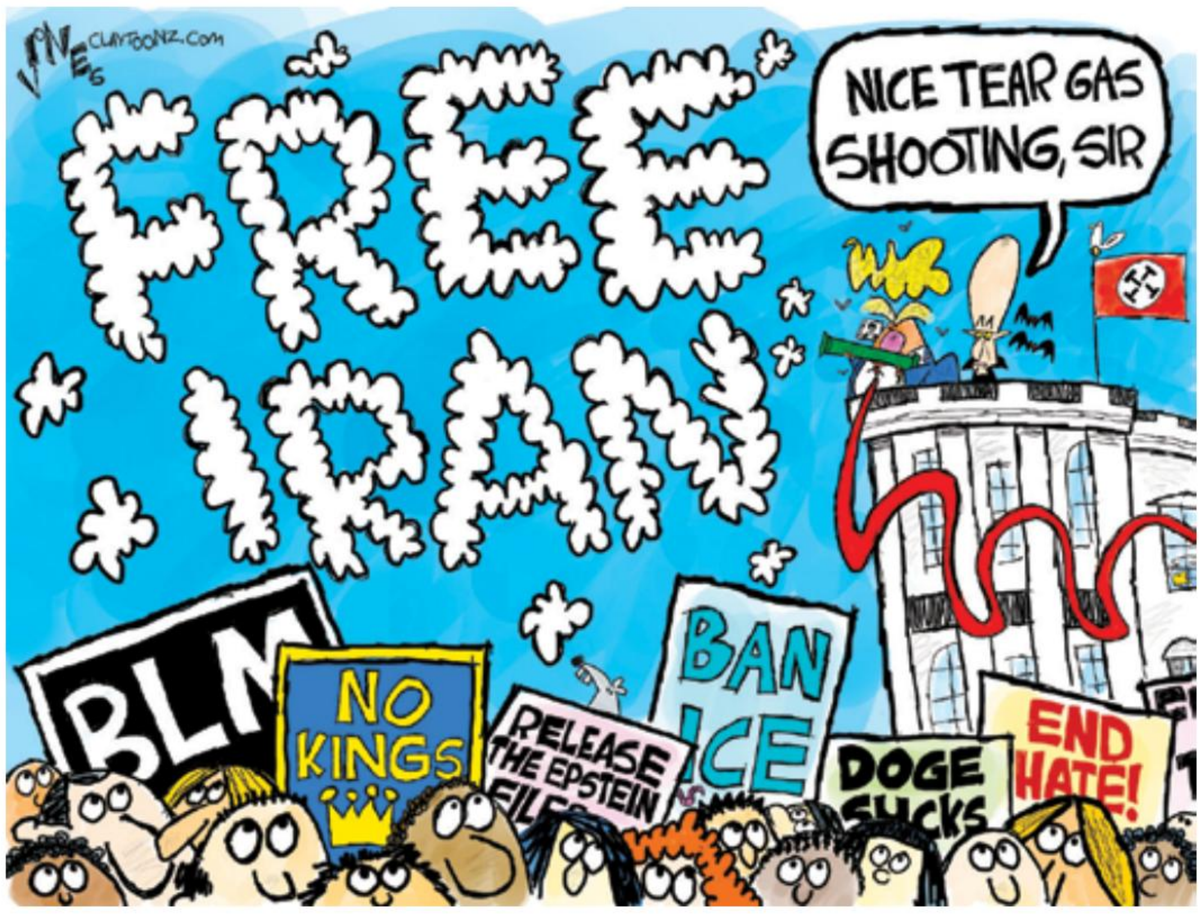
It was an incredible and iconic night 🤘😎
—@jovie_218, Instagram

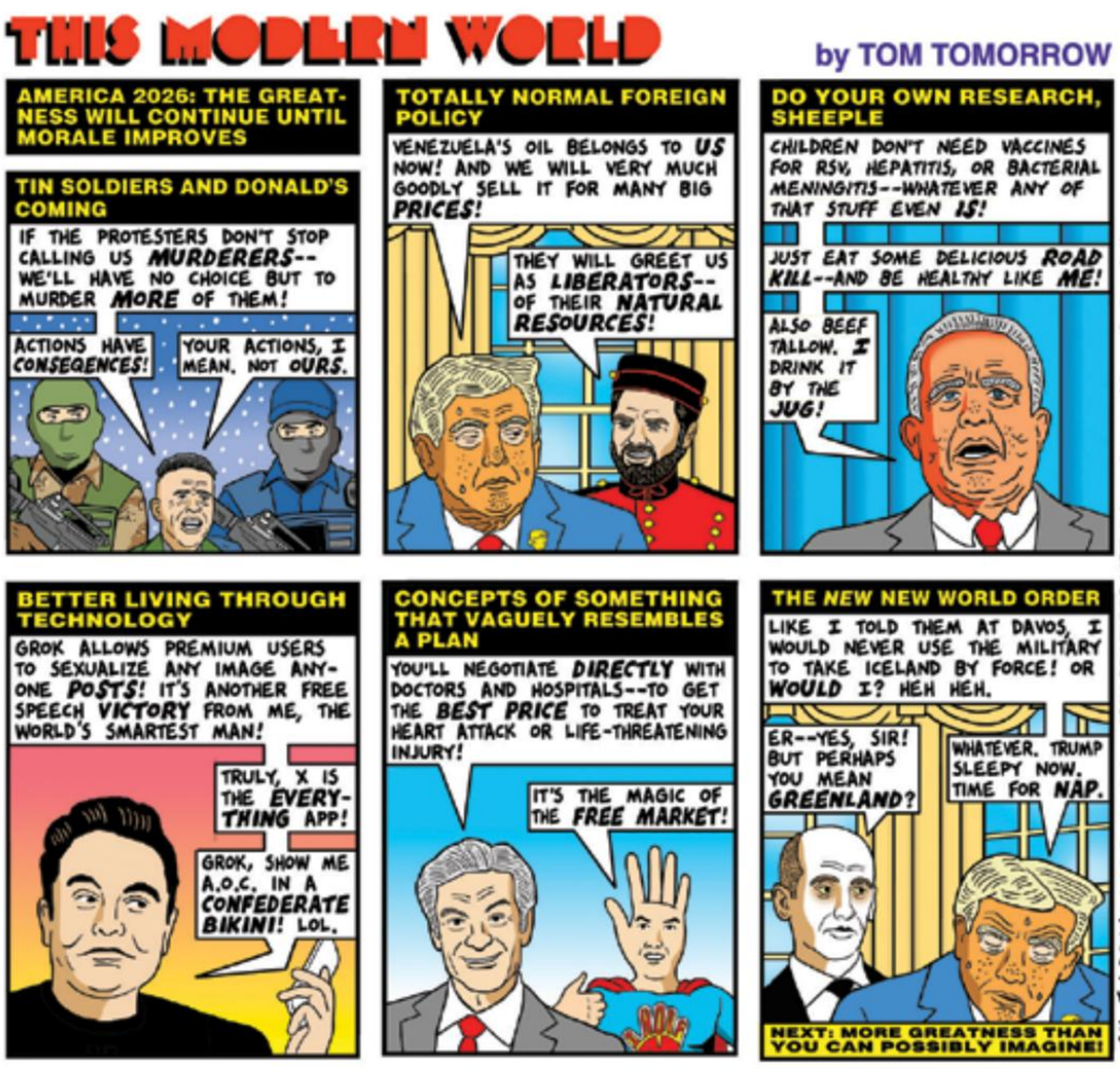
What an amazing night 🙌
Dope AF ✊
—@suprfly, Instagram

✊🖤💚313💚💪🖤💚
—@sugachelle, Instagram

GOAT
—@whosdatladie, Instagram

Have an opinion? Sound off! letters@metrointhed.com. MT




THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
AMERICA 2026: THE GREATNESS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL MORALE IMPROVES
TOTALLY NORMAL FOREIGN POLICY
VENEZUELA'S OIL BELONGS TO US NOW! AND WE WILL VERY MUCH GOODLY SELL IT FOR MANY BIG PRICES!
THEY WILL GREET US AS LIBERATORS--OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES!
DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH, SHEEPLE
CHILDREN DON'T NEED VACCINES FOR RSV, HEPATITIS, OR BACTERIAL MENINGITIS--WHATEVER ANY OF THAT STUFF EVEN IS!
JUST EAT SOME DELICIOUS ROAD KILL--AND BE HEALTHY LIKE ME!
ALSO BEEF TALLOW. I DRINK IT BY THE JUG!
TIN SOLDIERS AND DONALD'S COMING
IF THE PROTESTERS DON'T STOP CALLING US MURDERERS--WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MURDER MORE OF THEM!
ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES!
YOUR ACTIONS, I MEAN, NOT OURS.
BETTER LIVING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY
GROK ALLOWS PREMIUM USERS TO SEXUALIZE ANY IMAGE ANYONE POSTS! IT'S ANOTHER FREE SPEECH VICTORY FROM ME, THE WORLD'S SMARTEST MAN!
TRULY, X IS THE EVERYTHING APP!
GROK, SHOW ME A.O.C. IN A CONFEDERATE BIKINI! LOL.
CONCEPTS OF SOMETHING THAT VAGUELY RESEMBLES A PLAN
YOU'LL NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS--TO GET THE BEST PRICE TO TREAT YOUR HEART ATTACK OR LIFE-THREATENING INJURY!
IT'S THE MAGIC OF THE FREE MARKET!
THE NEW NEW WORLD ORDER
LIKE I TOLD THEM AT DAVOS, I WOULD NEVER USE THE MILITARY TO TAKE ICELAND BY FORCE! OR WOULD I? HEH HEH.
ER--YES, SIR! BUT PERHAPS YOU MEAN GREENLAND?
WHATEVER. TRUMP SLEEPY NOW. TIME FOR NAP.
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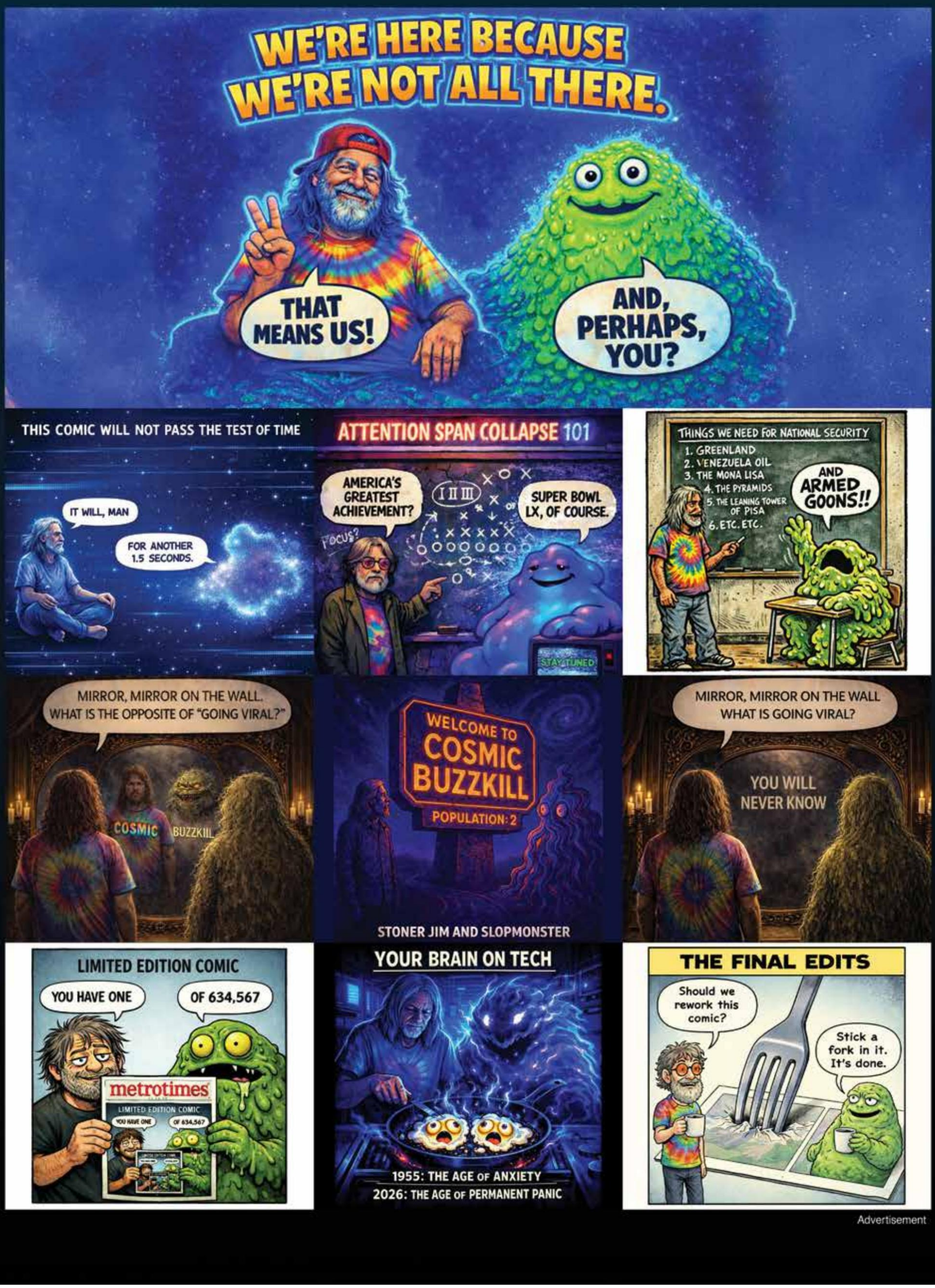

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Heidelberg Project's Tyree Guyton named Kresge Eminent Artist

Tyree Guyton. ERIN KIRKLAND FOR THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

The Detroit artist Tyree Guyton, whose colorful and controversial Heidelberg Project transformed entire blocks on the city's east side into works of art, drawing both praise and critics, has earned the prestigious Kresge Eminent Artist award.

A panel of five local arts professionals chose Guyton, 70, for the honors, which comes with a $100,000 cash prize. A short film and a monograph about Guyton and his work has also been commissioned, set for release this spring.

In a statement, Guyton called the news "surreal," adding, "I felt like Moses. All I heard clearly was, 'eminent' and 'you've been chosen.' I got real quiet. [...] It still feels crazy, after all this time. Me, chosen."

Kresge Foundation president and CEO Rip Rapson heaped praise.

"Tyree Guyton exemplifies the spirit of a city whose Latin motto – 'Speramus meliora; resurget cineribus' – translates to 'We hope for better things; it shall arise from the ashes,'" Rapson said. "In a 1980s Detroit widely and unjustly disparaged as nothing more than a locus of decline and crime, Guyton garnered international headlines by controversially turning vacant houses into canvases and empty lots into frames for striking assemblages of urban detritus transformed into a kind of gritty beauty."

He added, "For more than four decades, on the streets of his neighborhood and on gallery walls, Guyton has continued to exemplify ground truth and soaring aspirations, the blues and the abstractions, that are integral to so much of the great art for which this city is known."

Guyton launched the Heidelberg Project in 1986 in response to the blight that had taken over his childhood neighborhood.

"Art is my medicine; it's how I make sense, make meaning of the world around me," he said. "That day, I felt like the street, the city, needed my medicine. I started and I never let anything stop me. I still believe art is the answer."

The result is a strange tourist destination made by covering abandoned houses with colorful polka dots, discarded toys, and other flotsam and jetsam. Initially, the city deemed it an eyesore, and tried to demolish it twice in the 1990s. And in the early 2010s, other Heidelberg Project structures were damaged by fires in a string of apparent arson attacks.

But Guyton kept creating, and now, he's considered a fine artist whose work is featured in the permanent collections of the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and the University of Michigan Museum of Art, among others.

"As an artist, you want people to recognize you," he said in a statement. "But you get to a point, especially someone like me, with all the criticism, the trials, tribulations, the fires ... you stop caring. You stop thinking about any kind of validation. You keep moving, for yourself."

The Heidelberg Project, which has since become a nonprofit organization, says it is working on renovating some of its houses into permanent structures, including a welcome center, a community space, and a museum.

Guyton previously won a Kresge Artist Fellowship in 2009.

—Lee DeVito

Detroit council member proposes ban on masked law enforcement officers

Detroit City Councilwoman Mary Waters announced last week she is pushing an ordinance that would prohibit local, state, and federal law enforcement officers from wearing masks or other facial coverings to conceal their identities while performing their duties in Detroit.

Waters dubbed the proposal the "Alex Pretti Detroit No Masks Ordinance," saying it is intended to prevent officers from enforcing the law "with impunity" while their faces are hidden. Alex Pretti was fatally shot by two federal agents in Minneapolis after getting tackled to the ground for video-recording immigration enforcement on Jan. 24

"We will not have a Detroit where a masked mob is afforded the opportunity to enforce the law with impunity. We want to see the faces of law enforcement in Detroit," Waters said in a statement.

She added, "The least we can do is honor the memory of an American Hero, Alex Pretti, murdered in Minneapolis, Minnesota by a masked mob."

Under the proposed ordinance, "No local, state or federal law enforcement personnel shall be permitted to wear masks or other facial coverings to conceal their identity while performing their duties in the City of Detroit," according to the release. The purpose is to "enable the identification of individuals engaging in law enforcement activities within the City of Detroit." Penalties would be determined by the city law department.

The proposal comes amid growing national backlash over federal immigration agents wearing masks during enforcement actions, a practice critics say makes it difficult for the public to verify who is conducting arrests and to hold officers accountable.

Detroit would not be the first city to ban law enforcement from wearing masks.

Los Angeles County's Board of Supervisors recently approved an ordinance requiring law enforcement officers to show their faces and display identifying information while performing duties in the county's unincorporated areas. Philadelphia lawmakers have also unveiled legislation aimed at barring federal immigration agents from wearing masks in public.

In Denver, city council members proposed an ordinance that would prohibit officers from concealing their identities while interrogating, detaining, or arresting people. A similar proposal has been introduced in Jackson County, Missouri.

So far, there is little evidence that local mask bans have meaningfully stopped federal immigration officers from covering their faces.

In Los Angeles County, officials have acknowledged that enforcement against federal agents remains unclear, with county prosecutors saying they would only pursue cases referred by law enforcement agencies themselves. Legal experts have repeatedly warned that local and state efforts to regulate federal officers may run into constitutional challenges under the Supremacy Clause.

As a result, ICE agents have continued to wear masks in many jurisdictions despite local restrictions or proposed bans. That has allowed agents to act with impunity, making it difficult for the public to identify officers, verify their authority, or seek accountability when misconduct is alleged.

Waters' ordinance must be approved by the Detroit City Council before it can take effect. If adopted, the city law department would determine how violations are enforced.

—Steve Neavling

The Old Miami

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Tues 2/10
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ROGER PAZ!

Wed 2/11
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LARRY LOVE!

Fri 2/13
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DOORS@9P/$5COVER

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DOORS@9P/$5COVER

Mon 2/16
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CRAIG BENTON!

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2/20 djkage PYRAMIDS 4 (DETROIT JIT)
2/21 Hourlies/Wolf Bite/A Rueful Noise
2/28 5th ANNUAL BARFLY AWARDS
3/06 Super Horndog/Static Factory/ Burning Time
3/13 SEVY/StaggoLee
3/22 NAIN ROUGE After Party w DIVAS vs DIVAS
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Michigan Senate candidate Mike Rogers campaigns from Florida as carpetbagger questions return

Mike Rogers, the Michigan Republican running for U.S. Senate, is again facing accusations that he's more of a Florida resident than a Michigan one, after resuming campaign activity from his Cape Coral home for more than a week in November and recently joking on a right-wing radio show that he would rather be "on the beach in Florida" as Michigan braced for a winter storm.

Rogers, a former FBI agent and congressman, launched his Senate campaign in April 2025 after narrowly losing the 2024 Senate race to Democrat Elissa Slotkin.

This year's race is expected to be one of the country's most closely watched, with Democratic Sen. Gary Peters retiring and Michigan again shaping up as a battleground.

On the Democratic side, U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, state Sen. Mallory McMorrow, and public health expert Abdul El-Sayed are vying for the seat.

On the Republican side, campaign finance reports show Rogers raised about $3.4 million through October and had roughly $2.7 million cash on hand. Additionally, a super political action committee backing his run reported receiving $5 million from Texas oil billionaire Tim Dunn, a major GOP donor with ties to Christian nationalist causes.

The only other GOP candidate, former Michigan Republican Party co-chair Bernadette Smith, entered the race in November.

But as the money stacks up, Rogers is again confronting the "carpetbagger" label that dogged his last run, tied to his long-standing Florida ties and questions about where he actually lives.

Metro Times found that Rogers spent more than a week in November 2025 campaigning from his Florida mansion, beginning with a fundraiser in Naples on Nov. 19 and followed by a series of media interviews that appear to have been recorded from inside his Cape Coral home. Those included a virtual interview on Nov. 20, a social media video the next day, and another virtual interview on Nov. 26. In between, Rogers told a Michigan-focused audience in a Nov. 24 interview on Wood Radio that "my whole life is here [in Michigan]," despite being in Florida at the time.

During that same period, Rogers's Cape Coral property listing was removed from the market on Nov. 22 after he had listed the home soon after launching his campaign. The listing has remained marked "removed" as of Jan. 26.

The Florida backdrop also surfaced publicly this month. On Jan. 17, Rogers appeared on "Breitbart News Saturday," when the host introduced him from Michigan, and Rogers cracked, "Wouldn't we all like to be with Matt right now on the beach in Florida. It's even colder in Michigan," prompting laughter.

Rogers was referring to Matthew Boyle, the regular host of the right-wing show who was in Florida at the time.

Rogers's campaign spokeswoman Alyssa Brouillet tried to deflect criticism of the Republican by pointing out that McMorrow was born in New Jersey and Stevens spent time as a Bloomberg Philanthropies fellow in Louisville, Kentucky. She falsely claimed El-Sayed is an Egyptian citizen. He was born in the U.S. to parents who immigrated from Egypt.

"Unlike the New Jersey girl, 'lady from Kentucky,' and Egyptian citizen in this race, Mike is a born and raised Michigander who went to college here, spent his adult working life here, and brought up his own family here for the same reason he's running for office: Michigan is his home," Brouillet said in a statement. "Mike will never stop fighting to Get Michigan Working Again and help working families achieve the American Dream. And if The Left is worked up over a joke about an interviewer dodging a snowstorm, they must have a really tough time squaring away their own candidates' records of fleeing the state to cozy up to coastal elites in Hollywood and NAPA wine caves."

During Rogers's 2024 campaign, the White Lake Township home associated with him had been demolished, with a new house under construction, raising questions about addresses tied to his voter registration.

Those doubts have lingered into his second run, giving Democrats and outside groups an opening to portray the race as one between candidates rooted in Michigan and a wealthy Republican who built a life elsewhere and now wants back in.

Curtis Hertel, chair of the Michigan Democratic Party, denounced Rogers for campaigning in Florida.

"Mike Rogers enriched himself at Michiganders' expense, moved to Florida, made a fortune from industries he oversaw in Congress and shady foreign interests, and only came back so he could run for Senate," Hertel said. "Now he's literally campaigning from his Florida mansion, pushing handouts for millionaires like himself while working families pay the price. Michiganders rejected Rogers for being an out-of-touch carpetbagger once before—and they'll do it again in November."

The renewed focus on residency also comes as Rogers is trying to consolidate the Republican base with a campaign infrastructure built around hard-right activists and clergy. In a recent *Metro Times* story, I reported that Rogers formed a "Faith Coalition Leadership Team" that includes figures who have attacked LGBTQ+ rights and promoted false claims about election fraud, aligning with Rogers's own record in Congress of opposing LGBTQ+ protections.

—Steve Neavling

Judge halts rushed Leland House auction, intervening again in fight over Detroit's historic building

A federal bankruptcy judge on Thursday stopped a fast-tracked auction of the historic Leland House in downtown Detroit, rejecting the building owner's proposed sale and delivering a temporary win for displaced tenants who said the proposed sale would strip them of their rights without due process.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Maria Oxholm denied a motion by Leland House Limited Partnership to sell the 22-story apartment building at 400 Bagley St. and an adjacent parking lot, after objections from the U.S. Trustee, secured creditors, neighboring property owners, and tenants represented by the Detroit Tenants Union and the Leland House Tenants Union.

The ruling immediately halts the planned auction, which was set to begin on March 9, and forces the owner to reconsider its bankruptcy strategy after months of emergency filings, tenant displacement, and an unexplained pivot from stabilizing the building to liquidating it.

It is the second time in less than two months that Oxholm has intervened in the case. In early December, Oxholm barred DTE Energy from disconnecting power without court approval and allowed the owner to get a $1.2 million loan to handle some of its debts, including a deposit of more than $57,000 to keep the power on.

Despite what was at stake, DTE Energy wanted to shut off power to the 99-year-old building sooner. Residents and housing advocates question why the city hasn't advocated for the tenants. Then-Mayor Mike Duggan, who has received tens of thousands of dollars in political donations from DTE Energy executives, never spoke out in favor of residents. So far, Mayor Mary Sheffield, who took office on Jan. 1, is not taking a different approach, raising concerns among residents and advocates that DTE is trying to gobble up the property on a block where the utility already owns most of the land and buildings.

But on Thursday, DTE spokesperson Amanda Passage told *Metro Times* that the energy giant has no intention of trying to buy the Leland.

"We have no plans to pursue the purchase of Leland House," she says.

On Dec. 10, after a power outage, the Detroit Fire Marshal ordered an emergency evacuation of the building, forcing residents to leave on short notice. The city is preventing the tenants from picking up the rest of their belongings, arguing the building is unsafe.

Tenants are asking the bankruptcy judge to intervene in hopes of preserving their leases and preventing their belongings from being removed without their consent.

In January, court filings suggest that the owner is moving away from helping residents by failing to make adequate repairs and stabilize the building. Instead, money intended for that purpose has been redirected to tenant removal, storage, and property security. A financial advisor was also appointed to assist with a sale.

Soon after, the owner asked the court to approve bidding procedures for a rapid auction under federal bankruptcy law, including approval of a $3.5 million stalking-horse bid and a $200,000 breakup fee if that bidder were outbid. A stalking-horse bidder sets a floor price for an asset being sold through bankruptcy

The proposed sale also attempted to include an adjacent parking lot that is not owned by the debtor.

The U.S. Trustee, a federal watchdog in bankruptcy cases, objected to the stalking-horse fee, saying it is excessive and could chill bidding. Secured creditors argued the opening price was too low. Owners of the neighboring lot said the debtor had no authority to sell their property. And tenants argued that their unexpired leases could not be wiped out through a sale "free and clear" of their rights.

At the hearing Thursday, the court questioned the debtor's authority to sell non-estate property and raised concerns about valuation, structure, and the proposed bidder protections.

Metro Times is awaiting a response from Luis Ramirez, who represents the Michael Higgins Trust and the Leland House ownership. He has declined to comment on the case in the past.

Tenant advocates called the ruling an important pause.

"This decision gives tenants breathing room and ensures that any future sale of the Leland House cannot happen behind closed doors or at the expense of the people who lived there," the Detroit Tenants Union said in a statement after the hearing.

The court left open the possibility that the owner could return with a revised sale proposal.

—Steve Neavling

The historic Leland House building. STEVE NEAVLING

Michigan lawmaker proposes ban on state property being used for ICE detention

A Michigan lawmaker is pushing to block state-owned property from being sold or repurposed for federal detention facilities after 32 people, including children, died nationwide in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2025.

On Thursday, state Rep. Dylan Wegela, D-Garden City, introduced the measure, which is aimed at preventing ICE from expanding detention operations in the state. His legislation, House Bill 5494, would prohibit the state from conveying property to ICE and would require deed restrictions barring any state-sold property from being used as a detention center.

"2025 tied for the deadliest year on record when it comes to deaths in ICE detention centers," Wegela said in a statement. "32 people died in ICE custody. 32 lives taken without dignity or due process. Some might say there's not much we can do here in Michigan, or at the state level, to fight against this administration. That's wrong. We can fight against ICE right here at home."

The bill would also require private contractors operating detention facilities on formerly state-owned land to forfeit the property back to the state if it is used for immigration detention, according to Wegela's office.

The proposal follows scrutiny of ICE detention in Michigan, including the reopening of the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, a privately owned facility that can hold up to 1,800 detainees. The center reopened in June after years of operating as a private prison.

In December, a 56-year-old man died at the facility, prompting questions from lawmakers and advocates about transparency and medical care. ICE confirmed the death only after pressure from U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, who has become one of the strongest critics of ICE's ramped-up enforcement.

Wegela said the deaths and violent encounters involving federal immigration agents were the impetus for the bill.

"We're seeing targeted killings against those peacefully resisting ICE in their assault on Minneapolis, like the shootings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti," he said. "We continue to get horrific news of how those same agents treat people out of the public eye. One of the first deaths in custody this year was Geraldo Lunas Campos. ICE deemed it a suicide. The El Paso County Medical Examiner's Office revealed the truth: it was a homicide. Lunas Campos died due to compression on his neck and torso."

Immigration attorneys and advocates in Michigan say enforcement tactics have grown increasingly aggressive and covert, with arrests occurring during routine traffic stops and marriage-based green card interviews. ICE arrests in Michigan have nearly tripled compared to the previous year, with most people detained having no criminal convictions.

"These detention centers should not exist," Wegela said. "What we can do in Michigan is make it clear that ICE is not welcome here."

He acknowledged the bill faces an uphill battle because Republicans control the state House.

"The unfortunate reality is that unless House Republicans wake up to the reality of the threat that ICE poses to law and order, this will not move in the legislature," Wegela said. "I'm introducing this today as a rallying point for the folks actually fighting to keep us safe: the activists and organizers. I hope the House heeds their call to fight against the rising tide of fascism."

—Steve Neavling

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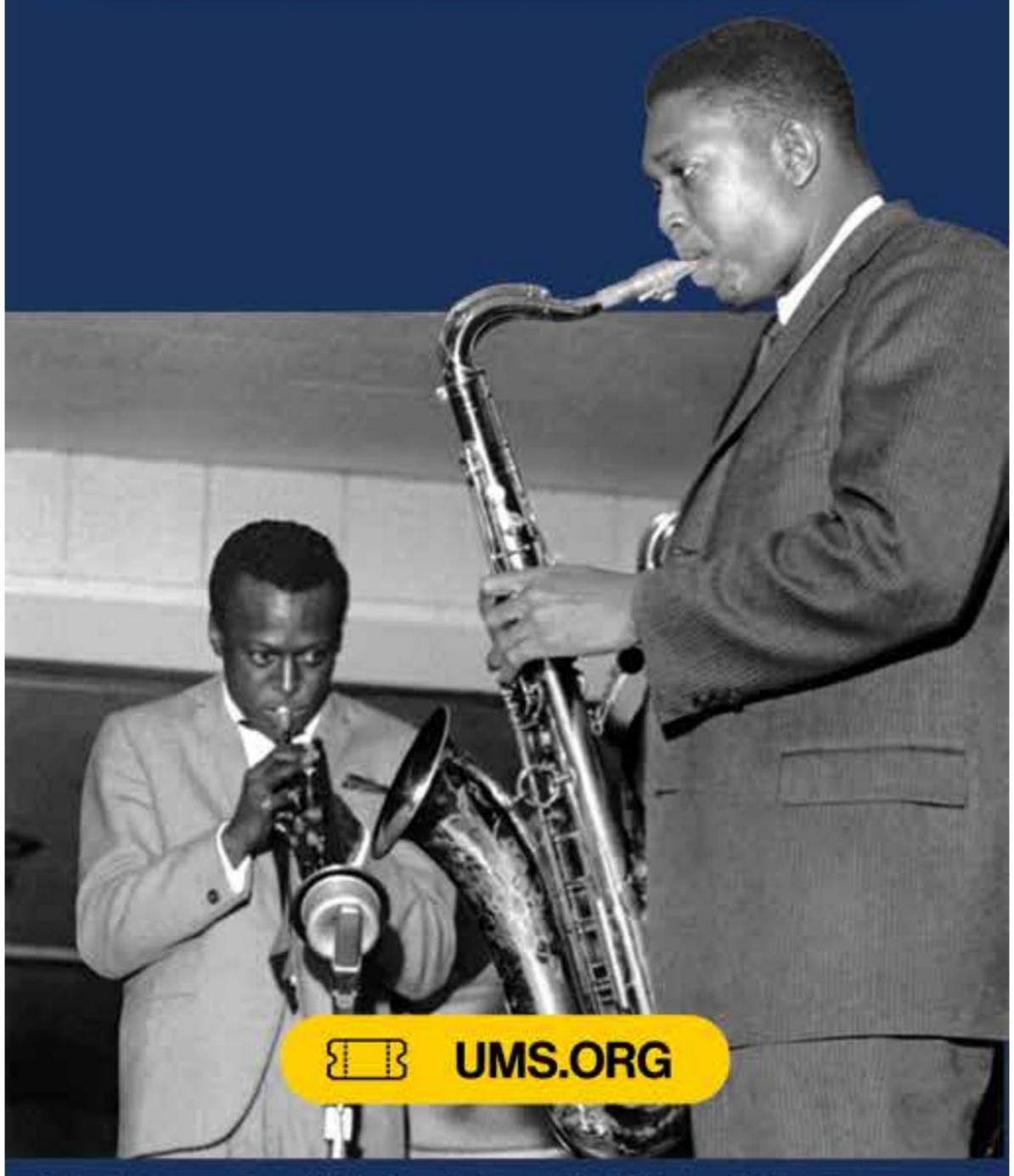

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BY LEE DEVITO

DITA VON TEESE

AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE

PHOTOGRAPHER CHAS RAY KRIDER OPENS HIS ARCHIVES FOR THE DIRTY SHOW

Once upon a time, brunette bombshell Dita Von Teese was blonde Heather Sweet from West Branch, Michigan. And early into her transformation into a burlesque and fetish icon, a fellow Midwesterner says he knew she would one day become famous.

"I could tell she was going to be a star," says Chas Ray Krider, who resides in Columbus, Ohio, and photographed Von Teese several times from 1998 through 2000. "From the beginning, it was obvious that she had the credentials, and the look, and the whole attitude and charisma to be a major celebrity. She had her thing down really well."

Krider will exhibit about 20 photos of Von Teese from his archives — including some that have not yet been published — at the Dirty Show, the annual erotic art festival set for Feb. 13-21 at Detroit's Russell Industrial Center.

When Krider first met her, Von Teese was a 26-year-old fetish model with a penchant for Old Hollywood-style glamor, including a corset-cinched waist. This was before she appeared on a 2002 cover of *Playboy* magazine (where a typo of "Von Treese" would christen her with her stage name), before her marriage and divorce from disgraced shock rocker Marilyn Manson, and before she became a *New York Times* bestselling author.

Back then, Krider had been working on a series he dubbed "Motel Fetish" featuring women in hotel rooms — first in sets built in his Ohio studio, and later in real hotels.

"The photographs evoke a narrative," Krider explains. "They look like stills taken out of a film. The whole treatment has kind of a cinematic look to it. It's more than just pictures of girls."

Krider says he aimed to achieve a particular aesthetic by using the hotel lamps for lighting, as well as using film intended to be shot in the daylight. The result is a series of images that look almost like they could be shot by an amateur, lending them an air of erotically charged authenticity.

"It's very lo-fi. ... it's very noir-looking," he says, adding, "The colors are saturated and kind of lurid, with a heavy shadow."

From this body of work, a connection at a Los Angeles-based magazine introduced Krider to Von Teese, who Krider booked as one of four models on a shoot in California. Von Teese knew exactly what to do, he says.

"I had a specific kind of way of working," he says. "We were on location in a hotel room, and I just moved her around the room based upon the geography and shapes of the space ... and then she was free to do as she liked. I might fine-tune the photos, but she was pretty much in control of what the pose would be."

Krider would go on to shoot Von Teese again during additional sessions in California, Ohio, and Indiana. He says he has remained in touch with her over the years and is compiling the images for a forthcoming book titled *The Dita Sessions* with her blessing.

"She deserves everything she gets," he says. "She has worked really hard. She was always ahead of the pack."

Krider has long called Ohio home, where he now lives with his wife and dog. "I've traveled around a bit, but I always drift back to Columbus," he says. "In the '70s and '80s, it was what I called 'the last of the low overheads.' Rent was cheap."

He says he began his photography career in Ohio as a street photographer inspired by Ralph Gibson. "Plus, I was just interested in women and lingerie," he adds.

"Chas is one of the last of the dying breed of cool erotic photographers," says Jerry Vile, founder of the Dirty Show, where Krider's photos will be among 300 or so works of art on display this year.

The event has grown steadily since its 2000 debut in the offices of *Orbit* magazine, the satirical Detroit-based monthly magazine Vile published in the '90s, and now draws attendees from around the world.

"I never had much of a goal for the Dirty Show," Vile says. "It's totally unplanned. It just became this massive monster. I think it's probably because it didn't have me trying to make it successful. I just tried to make it fun."

In addition to erotic photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures, and other works of art, the event also features popular burlesque and drag shows, as well as other oddball activations showcasing Vile's sense of humor. This year, those include the return of a leather nightclub dubbed "The Daddy Hole" and a miniature strip club starring a tiny dancer, Lil Miss Fire Fly, who calls herself the "world's smallest side show performer extraordinaire."

"I think one of the biggest things is a few years ago, I gave up on trying to compete with the academic art world," Vile says. "We're cooler than the academic art world. We invented our own arena, just like punk rock. The art world has gotten fat and boring, the same way music did when punk rock came out."

But Vile, who once fronted a Detroit punk band called the Boners, says he's not just trying to titillate and transgress. The strip club's latest incarnation is furnished with miniature furniture and was inspired, in part, by Vile's time chauffeuring its pint-size performers and seeing how they were treated in the real world.

"What makes this truly art is it's forcing people that are [of average height] to navigate their way through a setting that is built for a different height," he says. "Maybe it will make people think for a second."

As for a planned Dirty Show booth featuring the Detroit Cougars, well, that's just Vile being cheeky.

No, it's not a tribute to the Detroit Cougars, the hockey team founded 100 years ago that eventually became the mighty Detroit Red Wings.

"It's something for soccer moms gone wild," Vile says, adding that it will be staffed by "young boys."

Vile clarifies that they are in fact adults. The Dirty Show is for attendees age 21 and older, after all.

"To me, if you are in your 20s or 30s, you're a kid," he says. "I mean, you know, the easiest thing for people now is to call me Dirty Old Man." MT

The Dirty Show is open from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, Feb. 13-Saturday, Feb. 14 and Friday, Feb. 20-Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Russell Exhibition Center, 1600 Clay St., Detroit; dirtydetroit.com. Tickets start at $50.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

Cupid's Undie Run, Detroit; Saturday, Feb. 14. COURTESY PHOTO

MUSIC

Wednesday Feb 4

Live/Concert

Cubist Agenda 8 pm-midnight; First Place Lounge, 16921 Harper Ave, Detroit; No Cover.

The Function with DJ Dez Andres 9 pm-2 am; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Cubist Agenda 8 pm-midnight; First Place Lounge, 16921 Harper Ave, Detroit; No Cover.

The Function with DJ Dez Andres 9 pm-2 am; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

DJ/Dance

Planet Funk 7-10 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Way Back Wednesdays w. DJ Righteous 8 am-11:59 pm; New Dodge Lounge, 8850 Joseph Campau Ave., Hamtramck; 5.

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/Open Mic

Hump Day Karaoke & Music Trivia 8 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Thursday Feb 5

Live/Concert

Bret Michaels Live And Amplified 8 pm; Caesars Palace Windsor - Augustus Ballroom, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor;

Dueling Pianos: An Interactive Entertainment Experience 8 pm-midnight; AXIS Lounge, 1777 3rd St., Detroit;

Gospel Songs with Sister Bernice Jones 7-8 pm; Franklin Community Church, 26425 Wellington Road, Franklin; free.

Left To Suffer, The Last Ten Seconds Of Life, Larcenia Roe, Fr3ak 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Dueling Pianos: An Interactive Entertainment Experience 8 pm-midnight; AXIS Lounge, 1777 3rd St., Detroit;

DJ/Dance

Curated Cool 7-10 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

First Thursdays: J. Michael & The Heavy Burden Feb. 5, 9 pm; Bowlero Lanes & Lounge, 4209 Coolidge Hwy., Royal Oak; 0.

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/Open Mic

Drag Queen Karaoke 8 pm-2 am; Woodward Avenue Brewers, 22646 Woodward Ave., Ferndale; no cover.

Elixer: DJs John Ryan and GEO 8 pm-midnight; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; No cover.

Friday Feb 6

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Live/Concert

Death Arcana, Hand of the Sorcerer, Snugglebunzzz, Brugada 7 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Detroit Riddim Crew w/ The Loyal + DJ Tangent 9 pm; Bowlero Lanes & Lounge, 4209 Coolidge Hwy., Royal Oak; 0.

E5C4P3 - A Tribute to Journey 7 pm; District 142, 142 Maple St., Wyandotte;

Magic Bag Presents: 80s vs 90s - The Sqaure Pegz vs CLASS 7 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Saddle Up: 80's Country Dance Party! 8 pm; Diamondback Music Hall, 49345 S. Interstate 94 Service Dr., Belleville;

Son of a Gun – The Premier Tribute to Guns N' Roses 8 pm; Emerald Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens;

The Drifters 8 pm; Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts, 12 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac;

Will Overman and Grady Spencer 8 pm; 20 Front Street, 20 E Front St, Lake Orion; $20-25.

DJ/Dance

ELUCID + DJ Haram Feb. 6, 7 pm; The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Fiesta Friday | DJ Tony Toca & first Friday of every month, 10 pm-2 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak;

Open Air Fridays 4-10 pm; Woodbridge Pub, 5169 Trumbull St., Detroit; 0.

Saturday Feb 7

Live/Concert

BABIES R STUPID + DUMPUTER + LEGS OF THE FLY + XOOXOOPXONOO @ JOBSTOPPERS 02/07/2026 6-10 pm; Job Stoppers Inc., 5631 Michigan Ave., Detroit; 10.00 NOTAFLOF.

COLORS Presents: R&B ONLY (18+) 8 pm; Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

Dude Acoustic Trio w/Mike Ward Trio at Trinity House 7:30 pm; Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile Rd., Livonia; $20.

Infamous 12th Annual Return of the Bloody Valentine, featuring Black Jake & the Carnies 7-11:45 pm; Regal Beagle, 817 E. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti; $10 suggested donation or pay what you can.

Magic Bag Presents: Re-Cure 7 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Ogemaw County, Dead Hour Noise, Deeper Graves, Bastard Brute, Angry All The Time 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

R&B ONLY LIVE - Detroit, MI 8 pm; Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

Rezz 7 pm; Detroit Masonic Temple Library, 500 Temple St, Detroit;

Saddle Up 8 pm; Diamondback Music Hall, 49345 S. Interstate 94 Service Dr., Belleville;

Simon and Garfunkel Tribute 8 pm; Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Rd., Warren;

Sled Season 2026 4 pm-1 am; Tangent Gallery & Hastings Street Ballroom, 715 E. Milwaukee Ave., Detroit; 25.

THE MEGA 80's Ultimate 80's Retro Party 7 pm; District 142, 142 Maple St., Wyandotte;

The Ten* Year Fanfare 5 pm; Pike Room, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac;

Turn to Stone: A Tribute to ELO 8 pm; Emerald Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens;

DJ/Dance

Saturday Grind 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Saturday Grind 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Wheel You Go To Prom With Me!? Feb. 7, 7-10 pm; Plav Post Ten, 11824 Joseph Campau Ave, Hamtramck; 27.50.

Sunday Feb 8

DJ/Dance

SPKR BRNCH 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/Open Mic

Sunday Service Karaoke Hosted by Sister DJ Larry 8 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Sunday Service Karaoke | DJ Larry noon-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Monday Feb 9

Live/Concert

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series feat. Black History Month Tributes at Aretha's Jazz Cafe 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35 - $40.

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series, Tributes 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35-$40.

Sky Covington's Satin Doll Revue: A Tribute to Black History (The Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series, "Tributes") 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; 40.00.

SosMula 6 pm; Pike Room, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac;

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series feat. Black History Month Tributes at Aretha's Jazz Cafe 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35 - $40.

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series, Tributes 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35-$40.

DJ/Dance

Adult Skate Night 8:30-11 pm; Lexus Velodrome, 601 Mack Ave., Detroit; $5.

Tuesday Feb 10

Live/Concert

Berner 7 pm; The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

JJ Grey and Mofro 7 pm; Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak;

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK AND SAY ANYTHING - WINTER TOUR 2026 6 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Opeth 6:30 pm; Cathedral Theatre at the Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit;

Sean Blackman's In Transit 7-10 pm; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Sean Blackman's In Transit 7-10 pm; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

DJ/Dance

Soul Tone second Tuesday of every month, 9 pm-2 am; The High Dive, 11474 Joseph Campau Ave., Hamtramck;

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/Open Mic

Open Mic : Art in a Fly Space 7-10 pm; Detroit Shipping Company, 474 Peterboro St., Detroit; no cover.

VIP Tuesday Night Karaoke 9 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Wednesday Feb 11

Live/Concert

Cubist Agenda 8 pm-midnight; First Place Lounge, 16921 Harper Ave, Detroit; No Cover.

The Function with DJ Dez Andres 9 pm-2 am; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Cubist Agenda 8 pm-midnight; First Place Lounge, 16921 Harper Ave, Detroit; No Cover.

The Function with DJ Dez Andres 9 pm-2 am; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

DJ/Dance

Planet Funk 7-10 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Way Back Wednesdays w. DJ Righteous 8 am-11:59 pm; New Dodge Lounge, 8850 Joseph Campau Ave., Hamtramck; 5.

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/Open Mic

Hump Day Karaoke & Music Trivia 8 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Thursday Feb 12

Live/Concert

Dueling Pianos: An Interactive Entertainment Experience 8 pm-midnight; AXIS Lounge, 1777 3rd St., Detroit;

Adam Doleac , 7 pm; District 142, 142 Maple St., Wyandotte;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party , 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Dueling Pianos: An Interactive Entertainment Experience 8 pm-midnight; AXIS Lounge, 1777 3rd St., Detroit;

El Debarge , 8 pm; The Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit;

The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute , 8 pm; Caesars Palace Windsor - Augustus Ballroom, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor;

WYCD Presents Ten Man Jam , 6:30 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

YFN Lucci w/ BunnaB , 7 pm; Detroit Masonic Temple Library, 500 Temple St, Detroit;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

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Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am, 3 & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

DJ/Dance

Curated Cool 7-10 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/Open Mic

Drag Queen Karaoke 8 pm-2 am; Woodward Avenue Brewers, 22646 Woodward Ave., Ferndale; no cover.

Elixer: DJs John Ryan and GEO 8 pm-midnight; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; No cover.

Friday Feb 13

Live/Concert

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party , 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Black Violin 8-9:30 pm; FIM Capitol Theatre, 140 E 2nd Street, Flint; Tickets start at $46 / $33 for Genesee County residents.

Boot-Scootin' Valentines! 8 pm; Diamondback Music Hall, 49345 S. Interstate 94 Service Dr., Belleville;

Club 90s Presents Heated RivalRave - Ages 18+ 8 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Dead Boys 7 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Deraps 7:30 pm; The Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Rd., Westland;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

DJ Pauly D (18+ Event) 9 pm; Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Fool House - The Ultimate 90's Party - The Millennium Tour 8 pm; Emerald Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens;

Galentine's Day with La Tanya Hall 7-10 pm; The Blue LLama Jazz Club, 314 S. Main St., Ann Arbor; $150 or $125.

In Tha Fest Presents - Baby Kia 8 pm; The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Jay and the Americans 8 pm; Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Rd., Warren;

Magic Bag Presents: SKANK In The Snow! 7 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

The Michigan Philharmonic Presents--Ann Hampton Callaway and the Barbra Streisand Songbook 7:30-10 pm; The Hawk Theatre, 29995 W 12 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills; $35 general, $30 senior, $10 student.

The Michigan Philharmonic Presents--Anne Hampton Callaway and the Barbra Streisand Songbook 7:30-10 pm; The Hawk Theatre, 29995 W 12 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills; $35 - General, $30 - Senior, $10 - Student.

October London, Eric Benet, J. Brown 8 pm; Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Sing to Love: Valentine's Day Dinner and Concert 6:30-9 pm; The War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms; $90-$325.

Warhorses w/ Cherry Drop + DJ Sandford 9 pm; Bowlero Lanes & Lounge, 4209 Coolidge Hwy., Royal Oak; 0.

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am, 3 & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Club 90s Presents Heated RivalRave - Ages 18+ 8 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am, 3 & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

DJ/Dance

Ann Arbor Ecstatic Dance second Friday of every month, 7:30-10:30 pm; Ringstar Studio, 3907 Varsity Dr, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108, Ann Arbor; $25-40 ($5 discount for cash).

Open Air Fridays 4-10 pm; Woodbridge Pub, 5169 Trumbull St., Detroit; 0.

Saturday Feb 14

Live/Concert

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party , 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

112 Room 112 Tour 8 pm; Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Captain Fantastic Detroit (Elton John Tribute) 7-11 pm; Diesel Concert Lounge, 33151 23 Mile Road, Chesterfield; $20.

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am, 3 & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Janée Angelíque's Candlelight Soul Sessions: A Live Valentine's Special 7-10 pm; Moondog Cafe, 8045 Linwood St #2, Detroit; $21 in advance / $25 at the door.

Jo Dee Messina 6 pm; Cathedral Theatre at the Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit;

JOVI "Bon Jovi Tribute band", INFINITY & BEYOND - Journey Tribute 8 pm; The Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Rd., Westland;

Magic Bag Presents: Smells Like Nirvana 7 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

The Browning - 'Burn This World' 15-Year Anniversary Tour 6 pm; The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

The Police Experience 8 pm; Emerald Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens;

The Runarounds 7 pm; Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak;

Valentine's Day with Isis Damil 7-10 pm; The Blue LLama Jazz Club, 314 S. Main St., Ann Arbor; $150 or $125.

Your Generation 8 pm; Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Rd., Warren;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am, 3 & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

DJ/Dance

Clear Fields + DJ Soulful Dreams Feb. 14, 9 pm; Bowlero Lanes & Lounge, 4209 Coolidge Hwy., Royal Oak; 0.

Emo Night Brooklyn Feb. 14, 8:30-10:30 pm; Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor; $25.00.

Saturday Grind 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Saturday Grind 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Sunday Feb 15

Live/Concert

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party , 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Club 90s Presents Heated RivalRave - Ages 18+ 8 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am, 3 & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Club 90s Presents Heated RivalRave - Ages 18+ 8 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Detroit Medical Orchestra - "Beyond" 3:30-5:30 pm; Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell Road, Southfield; Always Free, Open to the Public, Suggested Donation $10.

Dirty Dancing in Concert 7 pm; Fisher Theatre - Detroit, 3011 West Grand & Fisher, Detroit;

Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party 11 am, 3 & 7 pm; Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Kestuin, Ziggy Waters, Trustmeshorty, Doris 7 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Lunar New Year Celebration with Xiao Dong Wei and Yuki Mack 2-5:30 pm; The Hawk Theatre, 29995 W 12 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills; $15 in advance, $20 at the door.

Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings 5-8 pm; Zal Gaz Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor; No Cover (tipjar for the band).

DJ/Dance

SPKR BRNCH 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/Open Mic

Sunday Service Karaoke Hosted by Sister DJ Larry 8 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Sunday Service Karaoke | DJ Larry noon-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Monday Feb 16

Live/Concert

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series feat. Black History Month Tributes at Aretha's Jazz Cafe 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35 - $40.

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series, Tributes 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35-$40.

Catalyst, Empty Shell Casing, Dead Butterflies 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series feat. Black History Month Tributes at Aretha's Jazz Cafe 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35 - $40.

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series, Tributes 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35-$40.

The Sophisticated Ladies: A Tribute to Betty Carter, Shirley Horn & Etta Jones (Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series, "Tribute") 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35.

DJ/Dance

Adult Skate Night 8:30-11 pm; Lexus Velodrome, 601 Mack Ave., Detroit; $5.

Tuesday Feb 17

Live/Concert

Sean Blackman's In Transit 7-10 pm; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Arkona 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Chris Cain 7:30 pm; The Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Rd., Westland;

Paczci Day 10 am-12:30 pm; Planet Ant Theatre, 2320 Caniff St., Hamtramck; $10.

Paczki Day 2:30-4 pm; Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 10, 11824 Joseph Campau St., Hamtramck;

Sean Blackman's In Transit 7-10 pm; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

WRIF Presents: Badflower 6 pm; Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/Open Mic

Open Mic : Art in a Fly Space 7-10 pm; Detroit Shipping Company, 474 Peterboro St., Detroit; no cover.

VIP Tuesday Night Karaoke 9 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

THEATER

Performance

Detroit Repertory Theatre August Wilson's The Piano Lesson August Wilson's THE PIANO LESSON, directed by Janai Lashon. Berneice and her brother Boy Willie fight over the fate of the family piano; she treasures it as a precious connection to their ancestors and he sees it as the means to a more prosperous future. This fourth installment of the American Century Cycle is a haunting play about legacy. $30 advance / $35 same day Fridays, Saturdays, 8-11 pm, Sundays, 2 am-5 pm and Saturdays, 3-6 pm.

WHAT'S GOING ON CONT'D

Hilberry Gateway - STAGE Julius Caesar William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar is a gripping political drama about power, ambition, and betrayal. When the beloved Roman leader Julius Caesar's rise sparks fear of tyranny, his closest allies conspire against him, leading to one of history's most infamous assassinations. As Rome plunges into chaos, Mark Antony's impassioned rhetoric turns the tide, setting the stage for war and tragedy. A timeless exploration of political intrigue and moral dilemmas, Julius Caesar remains a compelling reflection on leadership, loyalty, and the consequences of ambition. $15-$25 Friday Feb. 6, 7:30-10 pm, Saturday Feb. 7, 2-4:30 & 7:30-10 pm, Wednesday 2-4:30 pm, Thursday , 7-9:30 pm, Friday Feb. 13, 7:30-10 pm, Saturday Feb. 14, 2-4:30 & 7:30-10 pm and Sunday Feb. 15, 3-5:30 pm.

Meadow Brook Theatre What the Constitution Means to Me Wednesday 7:30 pm, Thursday , 7:30 pm, Friday Feb. 13, 7:30 pm, Saturday Feb. 14, 6 pm and Sunday Feb. 15, 2 & 6:30 pm.

The Music Hall Hare & Tortoise Saturday Feb. 7, 8 pm.; Sunday Feb. 8, 3 pm.

Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site Ocean to Ocean in a Model T History, heritage, and adventure come to life in our next Historical Speaker Series event, Ocean to Ocean in a Model T, presented by Steve Shotwell. Steve is the proud caretaker of his grandfather's 1916 Model T — a family treasure that's carried stories and memories across generations. Together with his wife Jan, Steve embarked on an unforgettable 4,000+ mile journey from New York City to Seattle, retracing the path of early motorists who proved America could be crossed by car. In this engaging presentation, Steve shares the determination, humor, and heart behind this once-in-a-lifetime trip — a tribute Free Sunday Feb. 8, 1-2 pm.

Rosedale Community Players Intimate Apparel by Lynn Nottage By two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for Drama, Lynn Nottage. Intimate Apparel tells the poignant story of Esther, a 35-year-old seamstress in early 1900s New York City. Set against the backdrop of Esther's dreams of opening a beauty parlor, the play explores themes of gender roles, race and the complexities of intimate relationships. Intimate Apparel invites audiences to reflect on the persistent challenges faced by women, particularly women of color, in their pursuit of love and independence. 21.72 Fridays, Saturdays, 8-10 pm and Saturday Feb. 7, 2-4 pm.

Theatre NOVA Kayak by Jordan Hall Theatre NOVA presents: Kayak by Jordan Hall January 30 - February 22, 2026 How high's the water, Mama? Alone on a vast stretch of water, Annie Iversen recounts the chain of events which stranded her in her son's old kayak. A doting suburban mother, Annie is blindsided when her son, Peter, falls in love with Julie, a passionate environmental activist. Desperate to protect her son from what she sees as a reckless path, Annie fights to hold on—until the danger she feared finds her instead. Directed by Briana O'Neal. Shows Fridays at 8:00 pm, Saturdays at 3:00 pm General admission: $30, 65 and over: $25, Students $15 Fridays, Saturdays, 8 pm, Saturdays, 3 pm and Sundays, 2 pm.

Musical

Detroit Opera House Phantom Of The Opera (Touring) Wednesday Feb. 4, 7:30 pm, Thursday Feb. 5, 1 & 7:30 pm, Friday Feb. 6, 7:30 pm, Saturday Feb. 7, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sunday Feb. 8, 1 & 6:30 pm, Tuesday 7:30 pm, Wednesday 7:30 pm, Thursday , 7:30 pm, Friday Feb. 13, 7:30 pm, Saturday Feb. 14, 2 & 7:30 pm and Sunday Feb. 15, 1 & 6:30 pm.

Fisher Theatre - Detroit Kinky Boots (Touring) Thursday Feb. 5, 7:30 pm, Friday Feb. 6, 7:30 pm, Saturday Feb. 7, 2 & 7:30 pm and Sunday Feb. 8, 1 pm.

Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts Dreamgirls (The Movie) Friday Feb. 13, 6:30 pm.

Rezz; Masonic Temple, Detroit; Saturday, Feb. 7. COURTESY PHOTO

COMEDY

Improv

Embassy Suites Troy The Dinner Detective True Crime Murder Mystery Dinner Show - Troy, MI North America's largest award-winning interactive true crime murder mystery dinner show invites you into a night of laughter, mystery, and audience-driven intrigue. Enjoy a full dinner while a hilarious crime unfolds around you—but stay alert. The culprit is hiding in plain sight, and before the night is over, you could find yourself named a Prime Suspect. Now playing at Embassy Suites Troy in Troy, MI, this murder mystery dinner experience is unlike traditional dinner theater. Our professional actors are not in costume and are secretly planted among the guests, creating a modern, social, and highly interactive evening. $79.39 Feb. 13-14, 6:30-9:30 pm.

Go Comedy! Improv Theater Pandemonia The Allstar Showdown is a highly interactive improvised game show. With suggestions from the audience, our two teams will battle for your laughs. The Showdown is like "Whose Line is it Anyway," featuring a series of short improv games, challenges and more. Fridays and Saturdays 7:30pm & 9:30pm 25.00 Fridays, Saturdays.; $20 Every other Friday, 8 & 10 pm.

Planet Ant Theatre Hip-Prov: Improv with a Dash of Hip-Hop $10 second Wednesday of every month, 7 pm.

Stand-up

Opening

Ann Arbor Marriott at Eagle Crest Resort The Dinner Detective True Crime Murder Mystery Dinner Show - Ypsilanti, MI North America's largest award-winning interactive true crime murder mystery dinner show invites you into a night of laughter, mystery, and audience-driven intrigue. Enjoy a full dinner while a hilarious crime unfolds around you—but stay alert. The culprit is hiding in plain sight, and before the night is over, you could find yourself named a Prime Suspect. Now playing at Ann Arbor Marriott at Eagle Crest Resort in Ypsilanti, MI, this murder mystery dinner experience is unlike traditional dinner theater. $79.39 Saturday Feb. 7, 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday Feb. 14, 6:30-9:30 pm.

Batch Brewing Company GRLS GRLS GRLS: A Pop-Up Comedy Show Raise a glass for live comedy! GRLS GRLS GRLS brings a one-of-a-kind pop-up comedy show to Batch Brewing Company in the heart of Corktown,

featuring standout comics from Detroit and beyond. RSVP- limited seating! Hosted by: Patty Rooney Featuring: Jen Richardson, Toi TooTall, Ann Duke with Headliner: Sam Rager 18+ $15 Thursday , 8-10 pm.

Emagine Royal Oak "Magic At The Movies" Featuring Anthony Grupido Love is in the air, and so is the laughter. Benefitting Mental Illness Resource Association, join us for Magic at the Movies featuring Anthony Grupido! This event is a Valentine's Day experience combining comedy, magic, and a full dinner inside a newly renovated banquet room at Emagine Royal Oak. Couples will enjoy a shared, cabaret-style seating experience alongside other guests, creating an intimate and energetic night filled with big laughs and jaw-dropping moments. A portion of the ticket benefits Mental Illness Resource Association. $70.00 Saturday Feb. 14, 7-9 pm.

The Fillmore Brad Williams: The Tall Tales Tour Saturday Feb. 14, 5:30 pm.

Radisson Hotel Southfield-Detroit Tony Roney's Comic Vibe Presents "Special Valentines Day Funny Fest , Saturday February 14, 2026 @ The Radisson Hotel 26555 Telegraph Rd Southfield, MI. Tony Roney's Comic Vibe Presents "Special Valentines Day Funny Fest , Saturday February 14, 2026 @ The Radisson Hotel 26555 Telegraph Rd Southfield, MI. Show Times 7pm & 9:30 pm. Tickets $40.00. VIP seating available for slightly Higher. This comedy show will showcase Detroit's funniest up and coming comedians. Sponsored by Tony Roney's Comic Vibe. For more info contact Kamilah @ 313 729 0502. 40.00 Saturday Feb. 14, 7-9 & 9:30-11 pm.

Sound Board Deon Cole Friday Feb. 13, 8 pm and Saturday Feb. 14, 8 pm.

The Comedy Bar Detroit Valentine's Day Weekend Comedy w/ Josh Adams Daphnique Springs headlines an evening of laughs at The Comedy Bar, Detroit's newest comedy club experience. Multi-talented actress, writer, and comedian Daphnique Springs, a Florida native, has made a mark in the Los Angeles comedy scene. Known for her sassy, smart, and sophisticated style, she captivates audiences with her comedic wit and versatility. Daphnique's latest special, in collaboration with Kevin Hart's Hartbeat, LOL LIVE premiered on June 6th on Hulu. Daphnique has featured for Martin Lawrence, toured with Katt Williams on his Born Again... Again Tour, and won several awards including the She-Devil Festival in NYC. 30 Friday Feb. 6, 7-8:30 pm and Saturday Feb. 7, 7-8:30 pm.; Josh Adams headlines an evening of laughs at The Comedy Bar, Detroit's newest comedy club experience. $25 Saturday Feb. 14, 7-8:30 & 9-9:30 pm.; Josh Adams headlines an evening of laughs at The Comedy Bar, Detroit's newest comedy club experience. Hailing from Detroit, Michigan, Josh Adams is gearing up to be a comedic heavy hitter. Over the course of his career, Adams has performed in front of all types of audiences from mainstream to urban, and at venues across the country ranging from colleges, to churches, to comedy clubs. Drawing from his unique perspective as a kid who was born in the hood and grew up in the suburbs, Adams holds his own when performing alongside national headlining acts such as Mike Epps and 30 Saturday Feb. 14, 7-8:30 & 9-10:30 pm and Sunday Feb. 15, 7-8:30 pm.

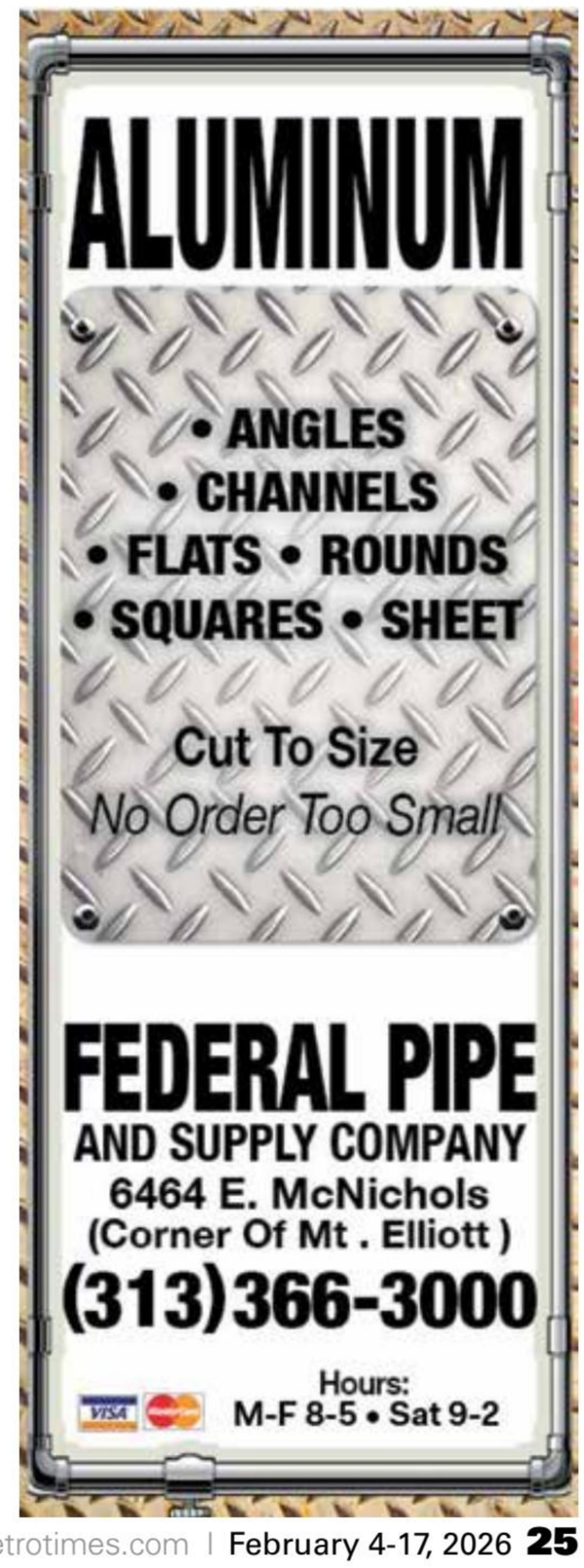
Continuing This Week Stand-up

Blind Pig Blind Pig Comedy FREE Mondays, 8 pm.

The Independent Comedy Club at Planet Ant The Sh*t Show Open Mic: Every Friday & Saturday at The Independent A weekly open mic featuring both local amateurs and touring professionals. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and the show begins at 9 pm.. The evening always ends with karaoke in the attached Ghost Light Bar! Doors and Sign up 8:30 p.m. Show at 9 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Attached bar Ghost Light opens at 7 p.m. $5 Suggested Donation Thursdays, 9-10:30 pm.; A late night, heckle encouraged, show up, go up stand-up open mic featuring both local amateurs and touring professionals. Sign up starts at 10:30 and the show begins at 11p. Doors and Sign Up 10:30p | Show at 11p | $5 Suggested Donation* Attached bar Ghost Light opens at 7p The independent Comedy Club is a comedy club run by comics for comics inside Planet Ant Theatre. The club runs Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, offering independently produced comedy shows from 8p-12a. Presented by Planet Ant *Planet Ant Theatre, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization; no ticket or reservation is required $5 Suggested Donation Fridays, Saturdays, 11 pm-1:30 am.

Salt + Ko Tony Roney's Hilarious Sunday Night Comedy, Every Sunday @ Salt + Ko Inside The Radisson Hotel 26555 Telegraph Rd Southfield, MI. Tony Roney's Hilarious Friday & Saturday Night Comedy, Inside Starters Bar & Grill, 18426 Plymouth Rd Detroit MI. Show Time 8pm. Tickets $25.00 . This comedy show will showcase Detroit's funniest up and coming comedians. Sponsored by Tony Roney's Comic Vibe. For more info contact Kamilah @ 313 729 0502 or 248 906 6119. 25.00 Fridays, 8-10 pm and Saturdays, 8-10 pm.; Tony Roney's Comic Vibe Presents "Tony Roney's Hilarious Sunday Night Comedy, Every Sunday @ Salt + Ko Inside The Radisson Hotel 26555 Telegraph Rd Southfield, MI. Show Time 8pm. Tickets $25.00 . This comedy show will showcase Detroit's funniest up and coming comedians. Sponsored by Tony Roney's Comic Vibe. For more info contact Kamilah @ 313 729 0502 or 248 906 6119. #highlightseveryonefollowers, #thingstodothisweekend, #thingstodoonsaturday, #thingstodoindetroit, #THEKRACKJOKERS, #tonyroneyscomicvibe, #TKJ, #easternmarket, #easternmarketdetroit, #UnitedStatesEvents, #michiganevents, #detroitcomedy, #michiganevents, #detroitperformances, #afterchristmas, #afterchristmascomedy, #newyearcomedy, #DetroitNightLife, #openmiccomedy, #eventbrite, #eventbritetickets, #comedy2026, #comedyindetroit, #newyear2026, #newyearcomedy, #RadissonHotels, #kamilah, #thingstodoonsunday 25 Sundays, 12-7:30 pm.; Tony Roney's Hilarious Sunday Night Comedy, Every Sunday @ Salt + Ko Inside The Radisson Hotel 26555 Telegraph Rd Southfield, MI. Show Time 6pm & 8pm. Tickets $25.00 . This comedy show will showcase Detroit's funniest up and coming comedians. Sponsored by Tony Roney's Comic Vibe. For more info contact Kamilah @ 313 729 0502 or 248 906 6119. #highlightseveryonefollowers, #thingstodothisweekend, #thingstodoonsaturday, #thingstodoindetroit, #THEKRACKJOKERS, #tonyroneyscomicvibe, #TKJ, #easternmarket, #easternmarketdetroit, #UnitedStatesEvents, #michiganevents, #detroitcomedy, #michiganevents, #detroitperformances, #afterchristmas, #afterchristmascomedy, #newyearcomedy, #DetroitNightLife, #openmiccomedy, #eventbrite, #eventbritetickets, #comedy2026, #comedyindetroit, #newyear2026, #newyearcomedy, #RadissonHotels, #kamilah, #thingstodoonsunday, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1979459688213?aff=oddtdtcreator https://patch.com/michigan/detroit/calendar/event/20260111/1e3aa078-38cb-4db6-a8b3-1e977ffad43f/tony-roneys-hilarious-sunday-night-comedy https://community.metrotimes.com/event/tony-roneys-hilarious-sunday-night-comedy-every-sunday-salt-ko-inside-the-radisson-hotel-26555-telegraph-rd-southfield-mi-41008277 25.00 Sundays, 6-7:30 pm.

Starter's Bar and Grill Hilarious Friday & Saturday Night Comedy – Starring Tony Roney & The Krack Jokers Tony Roney's Hilarious Friday & Saturday Night Comedy, Inside Starters Bar & Grill, 18426 Plymouth Rd Detroit MI. Show Time 8pm. Tickets $25.00. This comedy show will showcase Detroit's funniest up and coming comedians. Sponsored by Tony Roney's Comic Vibe. For more info contact Kamilah @ 313 729 0502 or 248 906 6119. #highlightseveryonefollowers, #thingstodothisweekend, #thingstodoonsaturday, #thingstodoindetroit, #THEKRACKJOKERS, #tonyroneyscomicvibe, #TKJ, #easternmarket, #easternmarketdetroit, #UnitedStatesEvents, #michiganevents, #detroitcomedy, #michiganevents, #detroitperformances, #afterchristmas, #afterchristmascomedy, #newyearcomedy, #DetroitNightLife, #openmiccomedy, #eventbrite, #eventbritetickets, #comedy2026, #toneyroneyshilarioussundaynightcomedy, #comedyindetroit,



WHAT'S GOING ON CONT'D

#newyear2026, #newyearcomedy, #RadissonHotels, #kamilah, #thingstodoonsunday, #Starter's Bar and Grill https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1979459688213?aff=oddtdtcreator https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1981329840890?aff=oddtdtcreator https://patch.com/michigan/detroit/calendar/event/20260111/1e3aa078-38cb-4db6-a8b3-1e977ffad43f/tony-roneys-hilarious-sunday-night-comedy https://community.metrotimes.com/event/tony-roneys-hilarious-sunday-night-comedy-every-sunday-salt-ko-inside-the-radisson-hotel-26555-telegraph-rd-southfield-mi-41008277 25.00 Fridays, 8-10 pm and first Friday of every month, 8-10 pm.

Dance lessons

Continuing This Week Dance lessons

The Commons Ballroom Dance Lessons Ballroom Dance lessons in the community laundry mat 5.00 first Friday of every month, 6-7 pm.

FILM

Screening

Emagine Novi Winter Kids Series At Select Emagine Theaters Don't miss our Winter Kids Series at select locations! Join us for a different movie each week Jan 9 – Feb 27, 2025. Tickets are $3 for all ages. Magic Packs available for $5. Dates and showtimes are subject to change. Limited availability each week. Not eligible for group rentals. If tickets are not currently on sale at your preferred Emagine location, please check back later. www.Emagine-Entertainment.com Through Feb. 27, 10 am-10 pm.

Emagine Saline Dementia Friendly Films At Select Michigan Emagine Theaters These screenings are created to ensure a calm and comfortable moviegoing experience for guests living with dementia and their loved ones. With softer sound, gentle lighting, and a relaxed setting, everyone can sit back and enjoy a classic together. Taking place at 1:00pm the second Wednesday of the Month at Emagine Saline, Emagine Canton, Emagine Rochester Hills February Film: Lover Come Back Wednesday, February 11, 2026 Doors Open at 1:15 – Film Begins at 2:00pm Theaters, dates, and showtimes are subject to change. Visit www.Emagine-Entertainment.com for a full list of theatre locations and showtimes. Wednesday 2-4 pm.

Emagine Theatre Rochester Hills Solo Mio Galentine's Night Emagine Theatres will be hosting "Error_MovieTitle_Unknown" a Mystery Movie Monday event. Catch an exciting new film release, before anyone else, for just $5 on select Mondays! The best part? You won't know the movie until it starts. Tickets are Final Sale. Dates: Monday, February 2, 2026 @ 7:00pm - Rated PG Monday, February 16, 2026 @ 7:00pm - Rated R Locations: Emagine Birch Run, Canton, Hartland, Macomb, Novi, Palladium, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, Saline, Woodhaven, Quality 10 Powered by Emagine, Birmingham 8 Powered by Emagine Monday Feb. 16, 7-9 pm.; To celebrate the film's opening, guests attending the 6:00pm showing of Solo Mio at Emagine Rochester Hills will receive a branded luggage tag and canvas tote filled with goodies including eye masks, spa headband, heart shaped sunglasses, and a free small popcorn voucher. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to take part in Free chair massages as well. Theaters, dates, and showtimes are subject to change. Visit www.Emagine-Entertainment.com for a full list of theatre locations and showtimes. Friday Feb. 6, 5:30-7:30 pm.

Northern Lights Lounge Detroit Psychotronic Film Society presents: Mr. Freedom Mr. Freedom (1969) is a surreal, anarchic satire where a jingoistic American superhero dressed like a walking flag storms Paris to "save" it from communism, only to wreak havoc with his violent brand of freedom. Loud, brash, and overflowing with absurd imagery, it skewers U.S. foreign policy with the subtlety of a bomb. Directed by expatriate filmmaker and photographer William Klein. Trailer: https://youtu.be/krkleuZILrM 60s and 70s political satire pre-show 6:30, film at 7. FREE Sunday Feb. 8, 6:30-9 pm.

Senate Theater Jungle Fever (1991) Doors – 2:00 PM Organ Overture – 2:30 PM Films – 3:00 PM - 1hr 33min (Presented digitally and on 16mm film!) TICKETS FOR 12 AND UNDER FREE Get ready for an afternoon of family fun at the Senate with a variety show of vintage animation. Producers of Popeye, Betty Boop and Superman cartoons, Fleischer Studios was once the premier animation studio in the world, competing head-to-head with Walt Disney. Thanks to its grittier style and technical innovations, its most popular creations have remained vital for decades, even after the studio was acquired by Paramount Pictures in 1942. $6.00 Saturday Feb. 7, 3-5 pm.; Doors – 7:00 PM Organ Overture – 7:30 PM Film – 8:00 PM -2hr 12min | R | Romance/Drama | Love, sex, race, politics, drugs, gender, religion, family strife, violence. Everything. MT

Kinky Boots*; Fisher Theatre, Detroit; Feb. 5-8.*

COURTESY PHOTO

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FIEGERLAW

Detroit's oldest brewery runs out of steam

After more than three decades of serving craft beer and pizzas in the Cass Corridor, Motor City Brewing Works is on hiatus until further notice.

The brewery, the oldest in the city, says it was forced to reconsider its future due to the termination of the historic thermal steam line that powered it.

Motor City Brewing Works made the announcement on social media on Tuesday, Jan. 13, writing, "After 31 years of brewing in Detroit, we're taking a break."

It continues, "Motor City Brewing Works has always been about more than beer. It's been about art, music, community, and the people who showed up and made it matter. We're incredibly grateful for every pint, every show, and every memory."

The company said its taproom would remain open through Sunday, Feb. 8.

It also shed light on the reason for the closure.

"This moment starts and ends on a historic note," the message continues. "Our brewery has been powered by the Detroit thermal steam system since its construction (the first new brewery in Detroit since prohibition). Our section of the century old system has reached the end of its useful service and was terminated on December 31. The Detroit steam powered brewery that helped change the brewing laws in Michigan is off the grid. While beer distribution to our retailers continues via help from our fellow breweries, we are using this space to explore future possibilities for the brand and the brewery as we take a thoughtful look at what comes next."

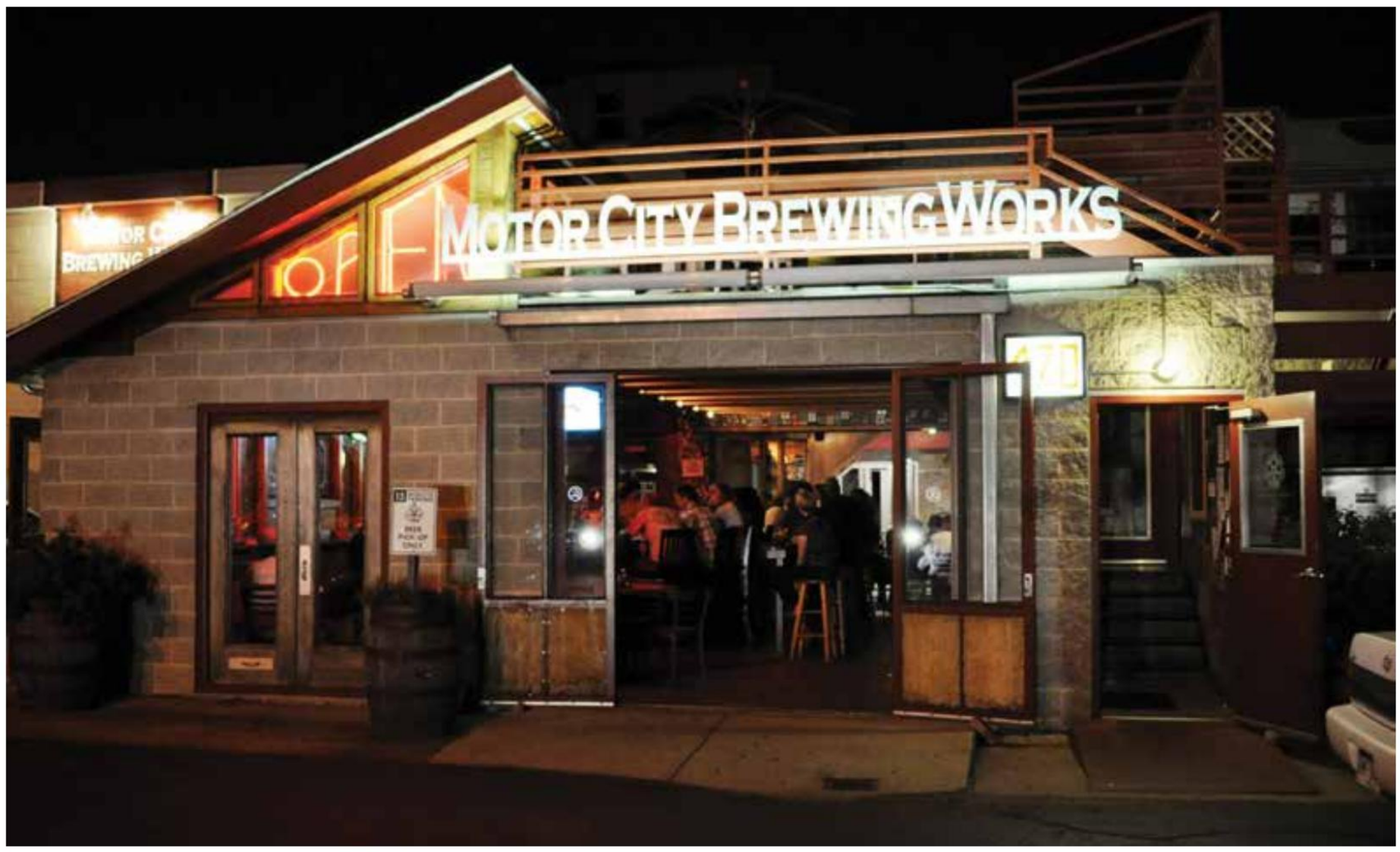
It concludes, "We know there will be questions. We appreciate your patience and will share updates as plans take shape. In the meantime, come raise a glass, share a story, and help us celebrate MCBW's small contribution to the Cass Corridor and all those that helped make it happen."

Founded in 1994 by craft beer aficionado John Linardos, the brewery was known for its funky brews like Ghettoblaster Ale and Notorious DRIPA. It was also known for hosting art exhibitions and its *Ghettoblaster* CD compilations of local bands.

The company briefly operated a second Motor City Brewing Works location along Detroit's Avenue of Fashion, which closed in 2023.

Motor City Brewing Works is located at 470 W. Canfield St. Detroit.

—Lee DeVito



Motor City Brewing Works. TED SWEDENBURG, FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Medusa Cucina Siciliana celebrates grand opening in Midtown

Chef Anthony Lombardo, co-owner of Detroit's acclaimed Italian restaurant SheWolf Pastificio & Bar, opened a new restaurant in the city.

Medusa Cucina Siciliana opened Thursday, Jan. 15 at 664 Selden St. in Detroit's Midtown, just down the street from SheWolf, with a focus on the cuisine of Sicily and other flavors from the Mediterranean.

"The food's simple: olive oil, capers, olives, tomatoes, anchovies," Lombardo told *Hour Detroit magazine last year*. "We're going to tell the story of Sicily through our menu, through our service and our hospitality, and hopefully teach everyone about the uniqueness of this very special place."

The building has seen a number of restaurant concepts try their hand at making a go of the space in recent years, including Smith & Co., Vigilante Kitchen + Bar, and Epiphany — Nain Rouge Kitchen.

Reservations are encouraged at medusa-detroit.com.

—Lee DeVito

Café Cortina marks 50th anniversary with special events

In 1976, Rina and Adriano Tonon launched their Italian restaurant in a former apple orchard in Farmington Hills.

Fifty years later Café Cortina is still going strong, and is celebrating the occasion with a series of events throughout the year.

The restaurant announced a "Founders Dinner Series" that launches on Monday, March 16 with an event called "La Notte Di Famiglia," featuring multi-course Founders Dinner inspired by the restaurant's original 1976 menu and wine pairings from Vittorio Veneto, the Tonon family's ancestral home in Italy.

The event is also set to feature "family storytelling from founder Rina Tonon and special guests," including the premiere of a documentary, *The Garden That Fed Detroit*.

The series continues on Monday, June 29 and Monday, Nov. 2.

Additionally, Café Cortina will have a presence at the Summer Garden Festival in Traverse City on Sept. 17 -19.

Other events include a collaborative dinner with guest chefs, a black-tie gala, and more.

Café Cortina is located at 30715 W. 10 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. More information is available from cafecortina.com.

—Lee DeVito

Hudson's Detroit announces rooftop bar with a familiar name

New details have been announced for a rooftop bar at Hudson's Detroit.

Pine Hall is set to open this spring at Detroit's new tower, named after a popular restaurant inside the old J.L. Hudson's Department store that once stood on the site until it closed in 1983 and was demolished in 1998.

The bar will be run by New York-based Union Square Hospitality Group, a James Beard Award-winning restaurant group that is also behind the national burger chain Shake Shack. It's the company's first Detroit project.

In a press release, Union Square Hospitality Group's Danny Meyer described Pine Hall as a neighborhood bar.

"Our hope is that Detroiters make it part of their regular rotation, a locals joint that brings people together and fits whatever the moment calls for," he said.

The bar is expected to seat around 300 guests and include an outdoor deck offering views of downtown Detroit.

—Lee DeVito

Little Caesars launches $4.99 Detroit-Style Slices-N-Stix

Detroit-style pizza continues to take the world by storm.

Little Caesars is expanding its deep dish Detroit-style pizza offerings with a new menu item.

It cooked up "Detroit-Style Slices-N-Stix," a single-serve meal for $4.99 that includes two slices of Detroit-Style Deep Dish pepperoni pizza, four pieces of Italian cheese bread, and Crazy Sauce.

The budget-friendly Motor City-based chain teamed up with Detroit Lions wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown to promote the product.

"Detroit-Style Slices-N-Stix delivers big flavor and value in a convenient, single-serve meal," said Greg Hamilton, Chief Marketing Officer at Little Caesars. "It's perfect for people who want something quick, hearty, and satisfying, without sacrificing taste. We're excited to introduce this new way to enjoy Detroit-Style Pizza."

The Detroit-Style Slices-N-Stix will be available from Little Caesars stores nationwide starting Monday, Jan. 19. MT

—Lee DeVito

Sarita Choudhury and Denzel Washington in Mississippi Masala. SAMUEL GOLDWYN

Films

Valentine's Day movies I love

By Jared Rasic, Last Word Features

I'm not sure if any two people find the same things romantic, but there are still movies and moments I think are absolutely undeniable. After a cozy night in or a decadent night out, here are a few romantic-as-all-hell movies that will play as the perfect nightcap to your special day.

Phantom Thread (2017)
Just the greatest movie ever made about finding the person that matches your freak set across the backdrop of a 1950s fashion house in London. Be ready to swoon.

Casablanca (1942)
When you're still hung up on your ex so badly that you help her and her husband escape Germany in World War II. I can barely return a text, so I know this must be true love.

Portrait of a Lady on Fire (2019)
Beautifully acted, achingly romantic, gloriously queer, this underseen period piece is one of the finest examples of the "female gaze" put to film.

In The Mood For Love (2000)
Maybe one of the three or four greatest movies ever made, Wong Kar-wai's masterpiece will not only take your breath away, but break your heart into big, sensual pieces.

Only Lovers Left Alive (2013)
To be a vampire and live for hundreds of years, yet still never fall out of love with your person... how romantic is that? Tom Hiddleston and Tilda Swinton are ethereal and otherworldly.

Her (2013)
For those who slowly come to realize that their partner has evolved past them and is now completely unrecognizable from the person they fell in love with. It should be depressing, but it is somehow hopeful and profoundly, hopelessly romantic.

The Age of Innocence (1993)
Never have wistful glances and barely brushed hands been so erotically charged and so layered with longing. Only Martin Scorsese could direct something this quietly elegant.

Once (2007)
Taps into the part of our lizard brains that has always known how connected music is to sense memory and how hard it can be to hear the song that reminds us of the one that once was everything.

Mississippi Masala (1991)
Denzel Washington and Sarita Choudhury are searingly sexy as star-crossed lovers facing disapproving parents, clashing cultures, systemic racism, and a love that transcends all. So underrated and moving.

The Princess Bride (1987)
As you wish, indeed.

Past Lives (2023)
This is the most profound look at the path not taken ever made. Filmmaker Celine Song captures the unspoken truth of longing in such a way that makes this a poem of the human soul in ways too hard to quantify.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)
That feeling when you love someone so much that science can't even get them out of your head. When you fight for someone so hard that it happens even in your dreams.

Moonlight (2016)
Painful, honest and searingly compassionate, *Moonlight* unpacks black masculinity and identity in ways that will engender empathy for generations to come.

The *Before* Trilogy (1995, 2004, 2013)
Watching Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy fall in (and out) (and in) love in real time across 20 actual years is the greatest experience I've ever had with the cinematic love story. It might be yours, too.

Moulin Rouge! (2001)
The only movie in history that could pull off the line "The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return" and have it work, completely. Romance and love as the greatest, most powerful verbs in existence.

Runners-Up: *Say Anything* (1989), *The Bodyguard* (1992), *Love & Basketball* (2000), *Love Jones* (1997), *La La Land* (2016), *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (1994), *The Remains of the Day* (1993), *Moonstruck* (1987), *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964), *Brokeback Mountain* (2005). MT

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"There were too many guns and too many raids," says author and early cannabis industry entrepreneur Ryan Richmond, who was sentenced to prison. ALAMY

The Straight Dope

New book recounts legal limbo of Michigan's early cannabis entrepreneurs

By Steve Neavling

When Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved marijuana for medical use in 2008, the ballot measure was seen as a turning point after decades of prohibition, signaling that patients should be able to access cannabis without fear.

But that's not what happened.

What followed, according to a new memoir by Detroit-area entrepreneur Ryan Richmond, was something very different.

In *Capone of Cannabis*, which was released this week, Richmond recounts how law enforcement agencies and prosecutors across Southeast Michigan responded to legalization. Instead of adapting to the will of voters, they aggressively resisted it, using raids, asset seizures, selective prosecutions, and intimidation to shut down early cannabis businesses and punish the people behind them.

Richmond found out the hard way. An early pioneer in the medical cannabis industry, Richmond was harassed, repeatedly raided and charged, and ultimately sent to federal prison in West Virginia for having the nerve to follow the will of voters.

"We were legal on paper," Richmond writes in the book. "But legitimacy didn't stand a chance against a badge and a grudge."

Richmond's book blends memoir and investigative reporting, drawing on court records, media coverage, and his own experience as a co-founder of Clinical Relief, one of Michigan's first medical marijuana dispensaries. The result is a detailed account of the chaotic years before the state created a formal regulatory system.

It was a period when cannabis businesses operated in legal gray areas while law enforcement continued to treat them as criminals.

'Too many guns and too many raids'

Richmond entered the cannabis industry almost accidentally. At the time Michigan passed its medical marijuana law, he was working in commercial real estate. In late 2009, he received a call from entrepreneurs looking to open a dispensary.

"I was just another bored real estate guy who got involved," Richmond tells *Metro Times* in an interview.

Clinical Relief opened in Ferndale in 2010, describing itself as a professional, patient-focused operation. There was no stoner imagery or neon pot leaves. Richmond writes that the goal was to show that cannabis could operate like any other legitimate business.

Instead, the dispensary became a target.

Less than three months after opening, Clinical Relief was raided in a heavily militarized operation involving armored vehicles, assault rifles, and masked officers. Richmond describes patients being thrown to the ground and staff treated as violent criminals.

In the book, Richmond describes elderly patients and people with serious medical conditions being detained at gunpoint while attempting to legally obtain their medicine. They included a breast cancer survivor who was tackled to the floor and a military veteran with PTSD who was held at gunpoint, both of whom were getting relief from medical cannabis.

"This wasn't about public safety," Richmond writes. "This was about sending a message."

The raids, he writes, resembled tactical operations typically reserved for violent crime, not inspections of voter-approved medical businesses operating openly with local approval.

The raid was only the beginning. Over the next several years, Richmond says he and his partners experienced relentless enforcement pressure.

One of the raids, Richmond writes, was followed by a personal tragedy for his business partner's family. Just days after officers stormed the dispensary and raided the homes of employees and relatives, his partner's father, Sal Agro, who had worked part-time at the shop and helped run the front desk, suffered a massive heart attack and died. Richmond says the death came in the immediate aftermath of the raids on the family's homes, where armed officers confronted his wife, children, and grandchildren.

"We had a raid every 26 days for four years," Richmond says. "I think I was charged 10 times."

In the book, Richmond describes how raids often occurred on Friday evenings, when dispensaries were most likely to have cash on hand, and how seizures were frequently followed by dropped or reduced charges.

Richmond also describes officers pointing guns at employees, rifling through patient records, and seizing cash and property even when no marijuana was found, actions that he says were meant to intimidate, rather than enforce the law.

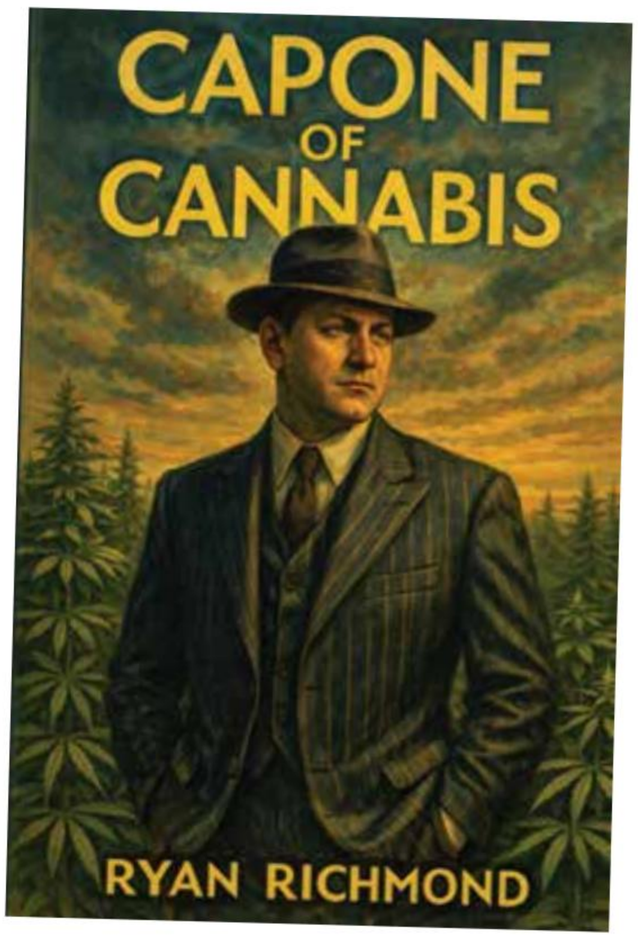
"There were too many guns and too many raids," Richmond says. "It was a lot."

In August 2014, six Detroit cops were suspended following accusations that they stole evidence from a medical marijuana dispensary operating out of a house on the west side. Other dispensary owners said Detroit police did the same thing to them.

After the initial burst of media attention, Richmond says he largely stopped speaking publicly about cannabis.

"I probably made zero comments for the next five years," he says. "My wife was really supportive, but she saw the bullshit. I became a father, and I couldn't do this anymore."

His book reveals what the media didn't know at the time, and the details are shocking.



Asset forfeiture as a weapon

One of the book's central allegations is that asset forfeiture, which is the practice of seizing cash and property suspected of being connected to crime, became a routine enforcement tactic against cannabis businesses.

"I think a lot of the main theme is police power," Richmond says of the book. "They took asset forfeiture and then started calling it 280E of the tax code."

Section 280E of the federal tax code bars businesses that traffic in illegal drugs from deducting ordinary business expenses. While marijuana remained illegal at the federal level, Richmond argues that prosecutors and tax authorities weaponized 280E to punish legal cannabis operators in Michigan, even as enforcement priorities shifted nationally.

In *Capone of Cannabis*, Richmond writes that asset seizures often occurred without judicial oversight, leaving businesses financially crippled long before any case was resolved.

"Justice gets priced out," he writes. "Pay to play, or get shut down."

Richmond says he ultimately challenged his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to hear it.

Richmond's attorney believes he may be the only American sent to prison over the application of 280E to a cannabis business.

"I was innocent," Richmond says. "And I still believe that."

Selective enforcement and 'optics'

Throughout the book, Richmond raises questions about selective prosecution, alleging that prosecutors and law enforcement focused on optics, not evidence, when deciding who to charge.

In one passage, he writes that some individuals connected to dispensary operations avoided charges altogether, while others were aggressively prosecuted.

"Optics matter," Richmond writes. "Charging the wrong person doesn't serve the narrative."

While Richmond doesn't claim to know the motivations behind every charging decision, he argues the pattern had a chilling effect on the industry, driving many early operators out of cannabis entirely.

"The goal was to scare people," he says. "And it worked."

The cost of regulatory failure

Michigan did not create a comprehensive licensing system for medical marijuana businesses until years after legalization. In the meantime, patients, caregivers, and dispensary operators were left dealing with contradictory court rulings, local moratoriums, and hostile enforcement.

Richmond argues that the state's failure to regulate created the conditions for abuse.

"Voters passed the law," he says. "But the system never caught up."

That gap, he says, exposed people to criminal liability despite clear voter intent, which is a common theme throughout the book.

"I started out thinking this was just about state enforcement," Richmond says. "But there were much bigger forces and power at play."

From cannabis to prison

Richmond was ultimately sentenced to two years and served time in federal prison.

"They put me in a cage in West Virginia," he says.

After his release, he left the state's medical cannabis industry. He later founded Hempwell, a hemp-based pet wellness company that now sells products through major retailers.

But the story never left him.

Richmond says he wrote *Capone of Cannabis* primarily for his children, who are now 11 and 9.

"I wrote the book so my kids could understand the story someday," he says. "The goal was getting the story out."

While the book is deeply personal, Richmond says its message extends far beyond Detroit or Michigan.

"It's definitely a Detroit story," he says. "But it's really an American story. It could have happened anywhere."

A reckoning with legalization's early years

Today, Michigan has one of the largest cannabis markets in the country. Dispensaries operate openly, taxes go to state and local governments, and marijuana enforcement has largely faded into the background.

In November 2018, Michigan voters approved the legalization of cannabis for adult use, allowing thousands of new businesses to legally open. Last year, recreational dispensaries rang up $3.17 billion in sales in 2025, down from $3.27 billion in 2024, a decline of about $100 million, or 3.1%. The industry employs more than 41,200 workers.

Richmond argues that progress came at a cost that was paid by early operators who were crushed before the industry was fully regulated.

"We were the test cases," he writes. "And once they were done with us, the state moved on." MT

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Savage Love

Medicine, Man

By Dan Savage

Q: *About a year ago I moved in with childhood best friend and his husband. We're all in our mid-thirties. It's been going great, and I consider the three of us to be fairly close. About a month ago, the husband and I stopped at the local pharmacy on the way home, which is how our various medications wound up in a pile on the table. While trying to dig my meds out from said pile, I noticed one of his prescriptions that I know can either be used as PrEP or as treatment for HIV. (I work in medicine.)*

Through conversations with my friends/roommates, I know they are in a closed relationship, so I believe this means the husband has HIV and is treating it. I shouldn't say anything to either of them, right? I don't consider it any of my business (he's treating it! I'm not sleeping with either of them! they're monogamous!), but I could imagine a world where one or both of them is anxious about my reaction if I were to find out. I'm close to childhood bestie's family, who I'm 99% sure don't know. (I would never, ever tell them, of course.) What say you, Dan? Do I take this to the grave?

— Getting Real About Viral Eyeful

A: This is none of your business... which you claim to know, GRAVE, and yet here you are wondering what, if anything, you should do.

Nothing. You should do nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Seeing as your childhood best friend's husband couldn't be bothered to hide his meds from his relatively new roommate — that would be you — we can safely assume he isn't hiding them from his husband. So, you can rest assured your childhood best friends knows what's up and you don't have a duty to warn him. Also, if they were anxious about your reaction to one of them having HIV, GRAVE, they wouldn't have let you dig through a pile of their prescriptions.

There's a reason this guy gets those meds and, again, his husband surely knows what that reason is. Maybe your bestie's husband was HIV+ before they met and has an undetectable viral load thanks to these medications, GRAVE, which means your bestie is not at risk. (Undetectable = untransmissible.) Or maybe your childhood best friend is HIV+ and on meds and has an undetectable viral load and his husband takes PrEP for an added layer of protection. Or maybe they're open and they don't feel comfortable talking with you about it — not all open gay couples are out to their straight friends about being non-monogamous — and they take PrEP daily or PrEP on demand to protect themselves on those rare/special occasions when they do fuck around with other guys. (Birthdays, anniversaries, Pride Month, Lent, Arbor Day, Tuesdays, Thursdays, the Oscars, Emmys, Tonys, etc.)

It's also possible the most important people in their lives know why they're taking those telltale meds but they didn't feel comfortable telling you. And seeing as your first impulse after spotting those meds was to wonder whether you needed to INFORM THEIR FAMILIES that one or the other or both of them might be HIV+ or that they might be one of those gay couples that define monogamy as "we only have sex with each and only have sex with other people together," GRAVE, maybe they were right not to tell you.

I know, I know: you immediately ruled out telling their families, GRAVE, and you deserve credit for that. (Self-regulation for the win!) But the fact that you had to had to rule it out — the fact that you had squelch the impulse — is a little concerning. Not an indictment of your character or anything, but if your first thought when you find evidence your childhood best friend and his husband might be fucking other people is, "Do their mothers know?", marks you out as a person a gay man might not feel comfortable confiding in about things their mothers don't need to know.

If there's something this couple wants to you know about their health or their sex life, they'll tell you. In the meantime, GRAVE, you can prove you're worthy of their trust by respecting their privacy — and for roommates, respecting privacy often means not bringing up something private you only saw because you're roommates. There's a good chance your friend's husband clocked you clocking his meds, GRAVE, and if you do the right thing — if you demonstrate discretion and chill — he might open up to you about his health and his sex life. But let him initiate that conversation.

Q: *I'm on SSI in low-income housing. I'm a 54-year-old man and still a virgin. Since I was a child, I have always liked women's legs and feet. I love pantyhose. I masturbate every night to what I hear and see about that, especially Tiffani Thiessen. I was worried that I had scarred the underside of my penis, but I've been given a clean bill of health by a specialist. With these things in mind, I think a nurse is my best fit since they're sexual and they can examine me. There was actually an ad on Craigslist a few years ago about rooming with two nurses. Ideally, I'd like to find a similar living situation in the Dallas area, due to the milder climate. Additionally, I think Dallas offers the best chance for me to find a job that fits my educational background and get off SSI. (Finding a relationship while poor or indigent is impossible.) While I would obviously have heavy sexual motives regarding nurse roommates, I don't want to hurt anyone or ask them to commit malpractice. Perhaps rooming with a nurse or two who works in research, or some other non-invasive field would be a safer bet? If you know someone who could help me, please let me know.*

— Needs Understanding Roommates Sexual Efforts

A: Only you can help you, NURSE, and disabusing yourself of this delusion — there are no hot nurses out there who would be willing to examine their virgin roommate's 54-year-old penis because that's what he wants — is the single most important thing you can do to help yourself.

If you want to live in Dallas, if you have job prospects in Dallas, by all means, NURSE, move to Dallas. Get a job, get your own place, and get roommates if you need help making rent. But springing your kinks on a new roommate or roommates — whether they're nurses or not — won't get your dick examined. Your roommates won't examine your dick just because you asked. Your roommates will box up your shit, put it on the porch, and have the locks changed.

Here's a better plan: get a job, get a place, get a couple of roommates to cut your living expenses — roommates you wouldn't be tempted to hit on — and save your money to hire a sex worker. There are plenty of sex workers out there who would happily wear pantyhose and pretend to be nurses while they examine your cock for signs of wear and tear.

Q: *I'm a 50-something penis owner with a factory-installed attraction to diapers. As a committed ABDL switch, I've had the luxury of building my own special clothing collection and a nursery, and I occasionally visit the most extraordinary Mommy Dom. (Shout out to Mistress Morgana in SF!) For the past five years, I've also played online daddy to a very cute adult baby girl who's my part-time slutty piglet. I've arrived at a point where my morning wood distresses me and ejaculating to relieve it makes me unhappy all day. I find the idea of owning smaller, less excitable genitals very appealing. Can you please offer some more detailed advice, other than suggesting that a cage will cause damage to one's erectile tissue?*

—Sad About Manhood

A: Penises can and do shrink. It's not something most men want to happen, SAM, but there are lots of ways you can make it happen for yourself. Before I walk you through your options, I want to disabuse you of your delusion: a smaller penis is not by definition a less excitable one. Lots of guys with smaller dicks are insanely horny, jack off all the time, enjoy great sex lives with satisfied partners, etc. So, while some of the options I'm about to share with you would tank your libido, SAM, let the record show that smaller dicks and low libidos have neither a correlative nor a causative relationship.

Option 1: Anything that fucks with your vascular system — anything that interferes with blood circulation — has the power to knock an inch or two off your cock. So, if you take up smoking and commit to a shitty diet, SAM, you could wind up with diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, all of which lead to tissue atrophy, weaker erections, and loss of length. I do not recommend this option.

Option 2**:** Low testosterone can reduce penile tissue elasticity and responsiveness. While this can happen naturally as you age, it can be induced with certain medications that I'll let you google for yourself. The shrinkage is usually modest, and side effects include fatigue, depression, and muscle loss. I do not recommend this option.

Option 3: Get prostate cancer and treat it very aggressively. Prostatectomy and radiation are among the most reliable, medically documented causes of cock shrinkage. They alter blood flow, disrupt nerve signaling, and damage erectile tissues. (If they're the first thing you doc recommends when your prostate biopsy comes back positive, you need a different doctor.) You could also wind up incontinent, and you would *have cancer,* which sucks. Since there's a proven link between prostate cancer and masturbation — too little masturbation, i.e. infrequent ejaculations, ups your chances of developing prostate cancer — you're on the right track if this option appeals to you. I do not recommend this option.

Option 4: Get older. This is the slowest, least dramatic route. Since we're all going to age, my recommendation here is irrelevant.

Good luck. MT

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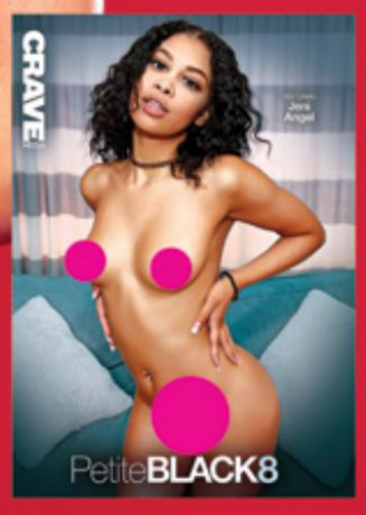

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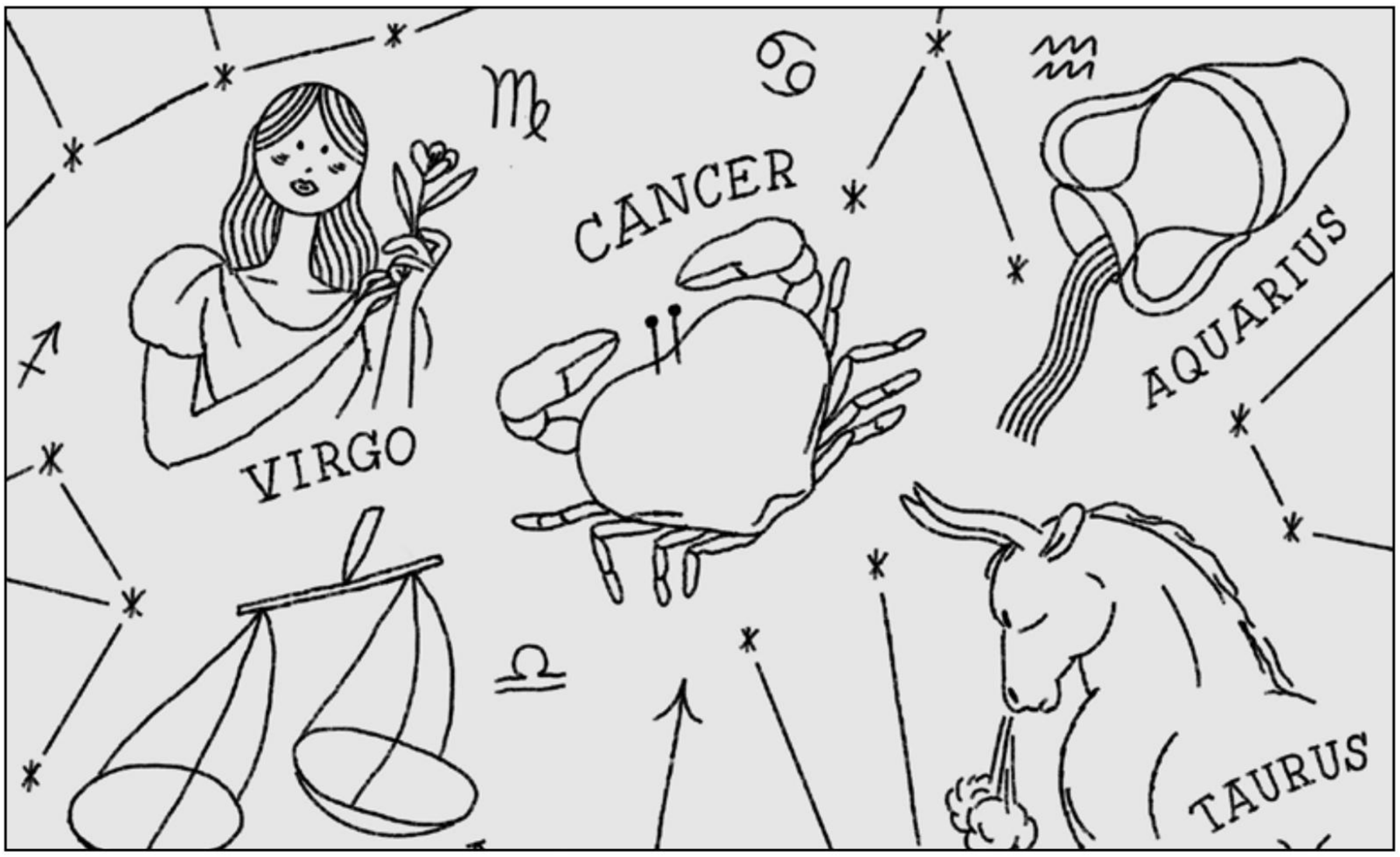
Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny



JAMES NOELLERT

♈ ARIES: March 21 – April 19
I'm thrilled by your genius for initiating what others only dream about. I celebrate your holy impatience with fakery and your refusal to waste precious life-force on enterprises that have gone stale. I'm in awe of how you make fire your ally rather than your enemy, wielding it not to destroy but to forge new realities from the raw materials of possibility. Everything I just described will be in your wheelhouse during the coming weeks.

♉ TAURUS: April 20 – May 20
How do I love you? Let me count some of the ways. 1. Your patience is masterful. You understand that some treasures can't be rushed and that many beautiful things require slow nurturing through your devoted attention. 2. You have a knack for inducing the mundane world to reveal its small miracles and spiritual secrets. 3. You practice lucid loyalty without being in bondage to the past. You honor your history even as you make room for the future. 4. You know when to cling tightly to what needs to be protected and preserved, and you know when to gracefully loosen your grip to let everything breathe. In the coming weeks, all these superpowers of yours will be especially available to you and the people you care for.

♊ GEMINI: May 21 – June 20
In carpentry, there's a technique called "kerf bending." It involves making a series of small cuts in wood so it can curve without breaking. The cuts weaken the material in one sense, but they make it flexible enough to create shapes that would otherwise be impossible. I suspect you're being kerf-bent right now, Gemini. Life is making small nicks in your certainties, your plans, and your self-image. It might feel like you're being diminished, but you're actually being made flexible enough to bend into a new form. Don't interpret the nicks as damage. They're preparation for adjustments you can't see yet. Let yourself be shaped.

♋ CANCER: June 21 – July 22
In Irish folklore, "thin places" are situations or areas where the material and spiritual worlds overlap. They aren't always geographical. A thin place may be a moment: like the pre-dawn hour between sleeping and waking, or the silence after someone says "I love you" for the first time. I believe you're living in a thin place right now, Cancer. The boundary between your inner world and outer circumstances is more porous than usual. This means your emotions may affect your environment more directly. Your intuitions will be even more accurate than usual, and your nightly dreams will provide you with practical clues. Be alert. Magic will be available if you notice it.

♌ LEO: July 23 – August 22
In traditional Korean *jogakbo*, scraps of fabric too small to be useful alone are stitched together into a piece that's both functional and beautiful. Every fragment contributes to the whole. I encourage you to treat your current life this way, Leo. Don't dismiss iffy or unfinished experiences as "wasted time." Instead, see if you can weave all the bits and scraps together into a valuable lesson or asset. Prediction: I foresee a lovely *jogakbo in your future*.

♍ VIRGO: August 23 – Sept. 22
The Maori people of New Zealand practice *mirimiri*, a form of healing that works not by fighting disease but by restoring flow. The technique involves removing blockages so life force can move freely again. I think you need the equivalent of mirimiri, Virgo. There's a small but non-trivial obstruction in your life. The good news is that you now have the power to figure out where the flow got stuck and then gently coax it back into motion. Let the healing begin! Here's a good way to begin: Vow that you won't hold yourself back from enjoying your life to the max.

♎ LIBRA: Sept. 23 – Oct. 22
In the coming weeks, I encourage you to prioritize mirth, revelry, and gratification. For starters, you could invite kindred spirits to join you in pursuing experimental forms of pleasure. Have fun riffing and brainstorming about feeling good in ways you've never tried or even imagined before. Seek out stories from other explorers of bliss and delight who can inspire you to expand your sense of wonder. Then, with your mind as open as your heart, give yourself the freedom to enjoy as many playful adventures and evocative amusements as you dare.

♏ SCORPIO: Oct. 23 – Nov. 21:
In the Inuktitut language of the Intuit people, the word *ajurnarmat* is translated as "it can't be helped." It acknowledges forces at work beyond human control. Rather than pure resignation, it reflects an attitude of accepting what can't be changed, which helps people conserve energy and adapt creatively to challenging circumstances. So for example, when hunters encounter impossible ice conditions, ajurnamat allows them to refrain from forcing the situation and notice what may actually be possible. I suspect you're facing your own *ajurnarmat, Scorpio*. Your breakthrough will emerge as soon as you admit the truth of what's happening and allow your perception to shift. What looks unnavigable from one angle may reveal a solution if you approach it from another direction. Practice strategic surrender.

♐ SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 22 – Dec. 21 Your hunger for meaning is admirable! I love it. I never want you to mute your drive to discover what's interesting and useful. But now and then, the hot intensity of your quest can make you feel that nothing is ever enough. You get into the habit of always looking past what's actually here and being obsessed with what you imagine should be or could be there. In the coming days, dear Sagittarius, I invite you to avoid that tendency. Rather than compulsively pursuing high adventure and vast vistas, focus on the sweet, intimate details. The wisdom you yearn for might be embedded in ordinariness.

♑ CAPRICORN: Dec. 22 – Jan. 19
In architecture, a "flying buttress" is an external support system that allows a massive building like a cathedral to reach greater heights without collapsing under its own weight. Because the buttress is partly open to the air rather than solidly built against the wall from top to bottom, it appears to "fly," which is where the name comes from. In the coming weeks, I encourage you Capricorns to acquire your own equivalent of at least one new flying buttress. Who or what could this be? A collaborator who shares the load? A new form of discipline that provides scaffolding? A truth you finally speak aloud that lets others help you? To get the process started, shed any belief you have that strength means carrying everything all by yourself.

♒ AQUARIUS: Jan. 20 – Feb. 18
The coming weeks will challenge you to think with tenderness and feel with clarity. You'll be called on to stay sharply alert even as you remain loose, kind, and at ease. Your good fortune will expand as you open your awareness wider, while also firming up the boundaries that keep mean people from bothering you. The really good news is that cosmic forces are lining up to guide you and coach you in exactly these skills. You are primed to explore intriguing paradoxes and contradictions that have valuable lessons.

♓ PISCES: Feb.19 – March 20
In alchemy, *solve et coagula* is a Latin phrase translated as "dissolve and coagulate." It means that transformation must begin with the process of breaking down before any building begins. You can't skip over the dissolving phase and jump straight into creating the new structure. I mention this, dear Pisces, because I believe you're now in the dissolving phase. It might feel destabilizing, even a bit unnerving, but I urge you to stick with it. When the moment comes to construct the beautiful new forms, you will know. But that time isn't yet. Keep dissolving a while longer.

Homework: *What small burden could you let go that will provide a rush of freedom?* MT

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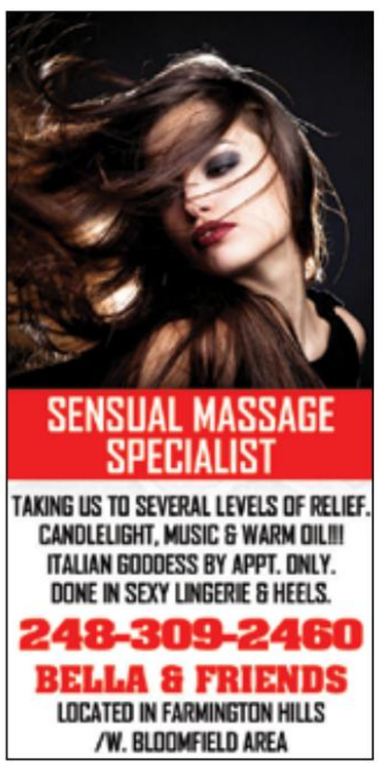
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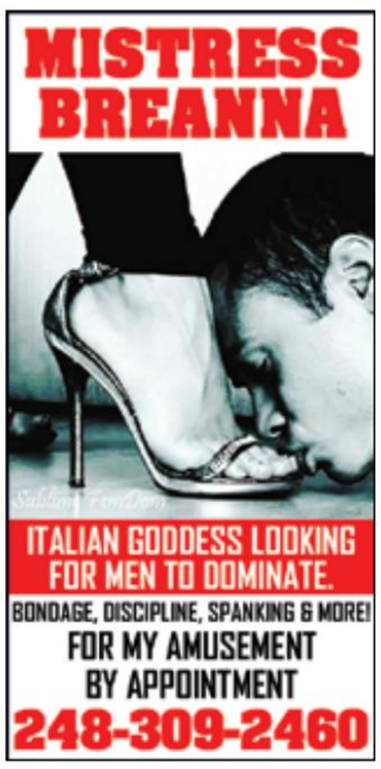

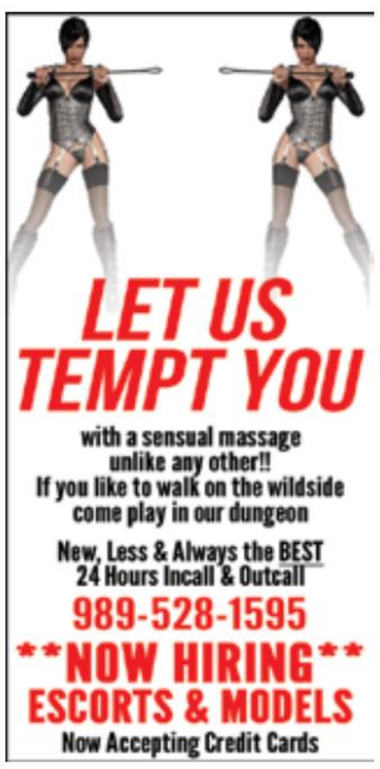
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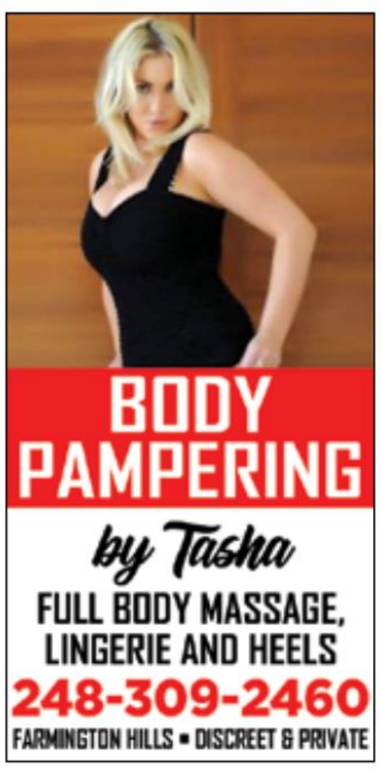

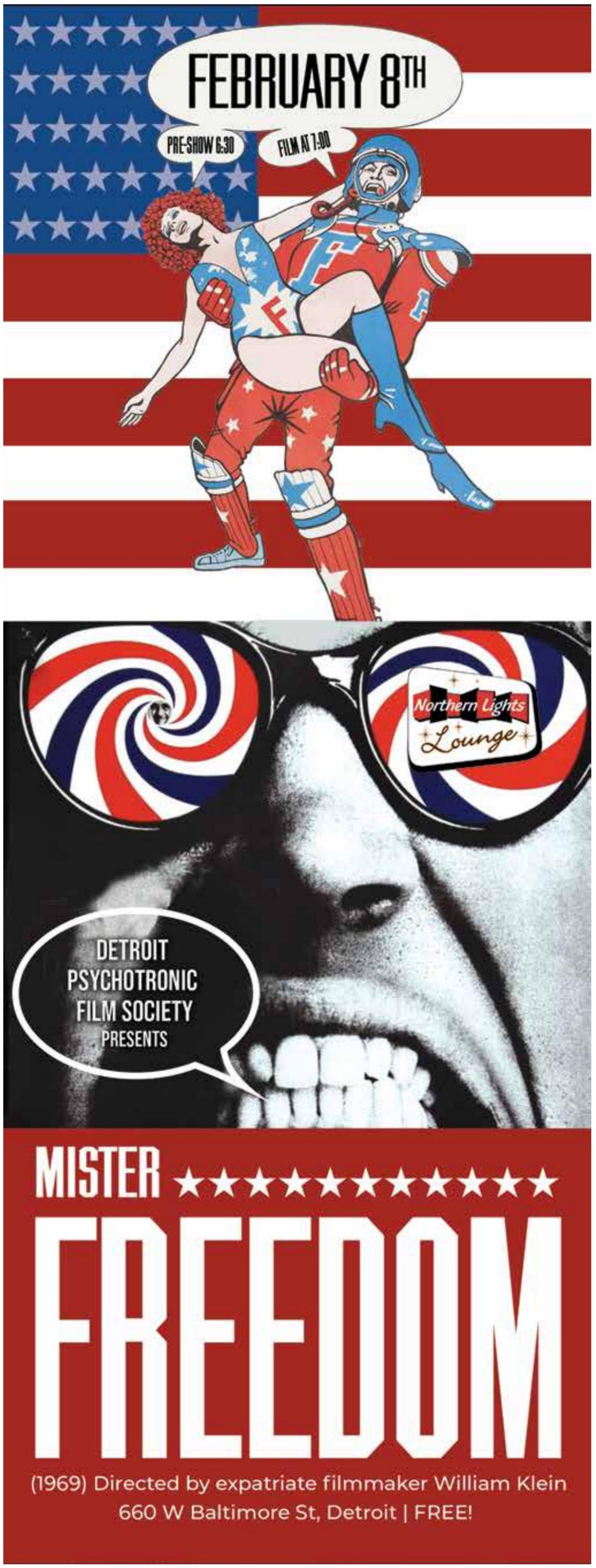

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